

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents a world premiere adaptation of *The Seagull*, Anton Chekhov's exploration of an actress, her son, her lover and his muse, through Feb. 26. Though Chekhov was a master of indirect drama (yawn), a worthy reshaping by former Portlander Joseph Fisher (*Faust. Us. Version 2.0*) provides direct access to this funnier-than-you'd-remember Russian classic. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

Arts Equity presents *The Ice Fishing Play*, a winter comedy that brings a lonely fisherman cheek-to-gill with destiny, through Feb. 26 in Vancouver, Wash. (Call for times. 606 Main St. \$10-\$34 from 360-695-3770.)

Broadway Rose Theatre Company presents Adair Chappell's eclectic cabaret *It's All About Me* March 4 at Tigard Community Friends Church. (3 and 7 pm. 15800 SW Hall Blvd. \$12 from 503-620-5262 or www.broadwayrose.com.)

CoHo Productions presents *The Real Inspector Hound*, Tom Stoppard's absurdist mockery of the traditional "whodunit," through March 4. A great cast, including Gary Brickner-Schulz as an oafish Magnus and Gretchen Corbett as the dire Mrs. Drudge, but on the whole this production lacks vim and vigor, not to mention the sentient overtones that make the twists and turns of this ingenious farce such a tickle. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$19-\$22 from 503-220-COHO.)

Conduit Dance presents acclaimed artist Michael Sakamoto's signature style of androgynous, off-kilter, butoh-influenced dance Feb. 24 and 25. (8 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. \$10-\$15 sliding scale from 503-221-5857.)

Conduit Dance presents an evening of new and reprised works by Robyn Conroy & Friends March 3-5. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 7 pm Sunday. 918 SW Yamhill St. \$12-\$15 from 503-887-9365.)

Defunkt Theatre presents *Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights*, an unpredictably absurdist take on the Faust story from lesbian Gertrude Stein, through Feb. 18 at Back Door Theatre. Like the theater's trademark cliplights, it's difficult to focus this oblique, tongue-heavy script.



Eggshell presents lesbian contemporary choreographer Catherine Egan's *The Dog in This Here Box* through Feb. 19.

Nothing is straightforward, and yet that is its strength. As such, Defunkt has created a seditious environment inebriated in an atmosphere of words. (8 pm. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$15 from 503-481-2960.)

Dell'Arte Company presents *In the Land of the Grasshopper Song*, a historical musical about two white women who served as "field matrons" for the Karuk Tribe of Northern California in the early 1900s, March 1 and 2 at West End Theatre. (7:30 pm. 1220 SW Taylor St. \$7-\$12 from 503-715-0974.)

Eggshell presents lesbian contemporary choreographer Catherine Egan's *The Dog in This Here Box*, a curious mix of dance works with elegant humor and off-kilter pathos, through Feb. 19 at Conduit Dance. (8 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. \$12 from 503-221-5857.)

Hillsboro Artist's Regional Theatre presents Neil Simon's classic comedy *Barefoot in the Park* through March 5 at Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 527 E Main St. \$12 from 503-693-7815.)

Insight Out Theatre Collective presents *Kindred*, a riveting dark comedy about two prisoners seeking redemption and connection in the final 90 minutes of one man's life, through Feb. 18 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. This clear, concentrated, no-shit production of a provocative script is tense yet tender, intimate yet claustrophobic. Lamont Stephens turns in a genuinely outstanding performance—like nothing else on Portland stages this season. Go see this before its time is up, too. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 5:30 N Interstate Ave. \$15 from 503-234-0973; Wednesdays are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

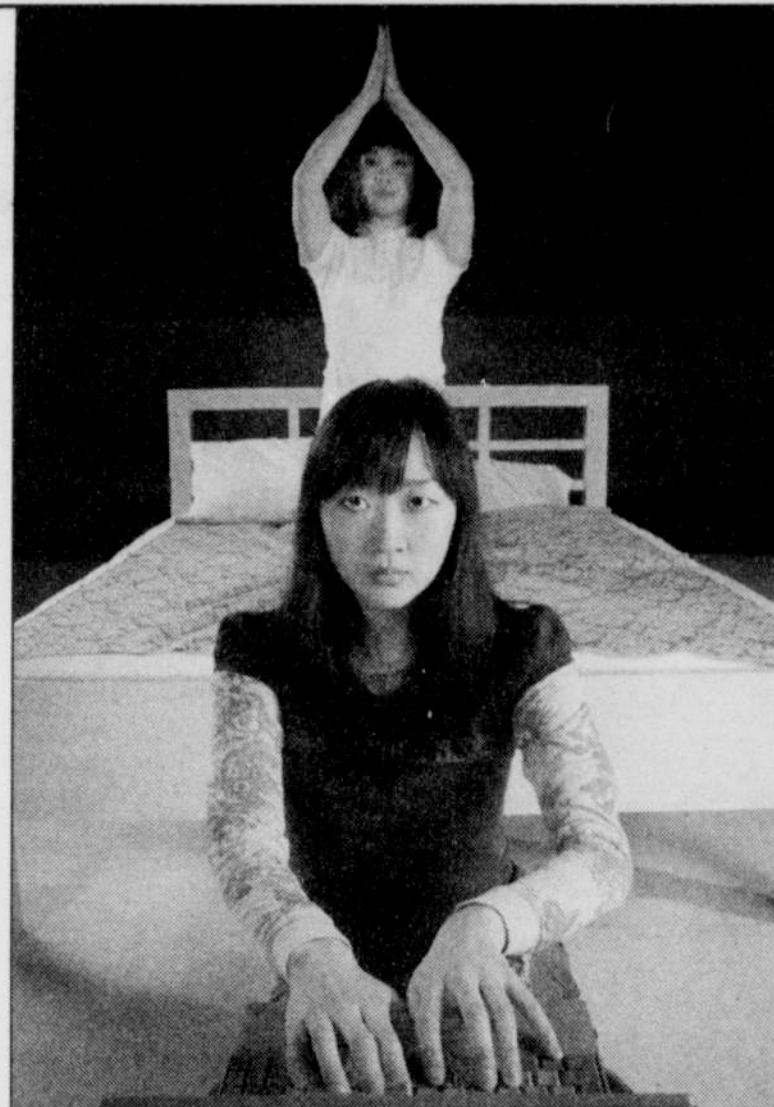
Integrity Productions presents *Going to St. Ives*, a psychological drama the mother of a ruthless African dictator seeking treatment from a prominent British ophthalmologist, March 2-April 2 at Theater Theatre. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$5-\$10 from 503-286-3456.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *The Lion in Winter*, a comic drama pitting King Henry II against his strong-willed wife and their three heirs in a 12th century struggle for love and power, through Feb. 19. A competent cast delivers a polished production, though its vigorous pace, broad characterizations and excessive volume downplay the acerbic bite of this black comedy to a playful nip. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$22-\$24 from 503-635-3901.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents the spoofy and spiffy whodunit *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* March 3-April 9. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$22-\$24 from 503-635-3901.)

Liminal Performance Group presents the Portland premiere of *Far Away*, Caryl Churchill's dark, quasi-political play staged on a set composed entirely of video projection surfaces, through Feb. 18 at Goldsmith Building. This initially intriguing production's enigmatic "tunnel vision" ultimately befuddles more than enlightens. And while art doesn't have to give answers, it must at least clearly convey the question. All that was obvious was young Hallie Blasfield's phenomenal stage presence. (8 pm. 20 NW Fifth Ave. \$6-\$10 sliding scale from 503-890-2993.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents *Men on the Verge 2 (The Self-Esteem Files)*, a one-man show revealing a vibrant array of gay Latino identities, through Feb. 25. Andrés Alcalá is probably the most versatile actor on Portland stages today, transforming his ductile voice and body to fully inhabit new characters while keeping each deeply rooted in integrity. On top of that, he's just out-and-out funny. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$16-\$20 from 503-236-7253.)



The irreverent "techno comedy" *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* runs through March 5 at Portland Center Stage.

Northwest Children's Theater presents the Tony-nominated musical *A Year with Frog & Toad* through Feb. 26 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. Bert and Ernie of the amphibian world have such gosh-darn charm that even the production's disparate performances can't keep one from enjoying this short-and-sweet, heartwarming diddy about friendship. With Stephen Alexander's tongue-in-cheek directing flair, it's fun for all. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$12-\$20 from 503-222-4480 or www.nwcts.org.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents its romantic *Winter Program* featuring a world premiere by gay choreographer Trey McIntyre and George Balanchine's classic tribute to Gershwin, "Who Cares?," Feb. 18-25 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$23-\$96 from box office or 503-2-BALLET.)

Oregon Children's Theatre presents the world premiere of *The Giver*, about a 12-year-old who confronts the world about its forgotten humanity, March 5, 11 and 12 at Keller Auditorium. (2 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$10-\$22 from 503-228-9571 or Ticketmaster.)

Pixie Dust Productions presents *The Full Monty*, gay playwright Terrence McNally's musical about six buddies whose desperate plan to get their lives back together requires them to triumph over their fears, their nerves and their clothes, March 3-April 15 at World Trade Center Theatre. Opening weekend proceeds benefit Profile Theatre Project. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 8 pm April 6 and 13. 121 SW Salmon St. \$33-\$60 from 503-624-0403.)

Portland Actors Conservatory presents *The Laramie Project*, Moises Kaufman's thought-provoking, critically acclaimed and emotionally riveting theater experience of a small town at the epicenter of Matthew Shepard's anti-gay murder, through March 5 at Firehouse Theatre. (7 pm Wednesday and Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1436 SW Montgomery St. \$15-\$25 from 503-274-1717.)

Portland Center Stage presents *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, an irreverent "techno comedy" about a brilliant young agoraphobe who uses highly imaginative means to find her Chinese birth mother, through March 5 at Newmark Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$56 from 503-274-6588.)

Portland State University presents *Oh, What a Lovely War*, a chilling documentary of World War I combined with a cabaret of music and comedy performed by a troupe of circus clowns, through Feb. 25 at Lincoln Hall. (7:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$7-\$8 from 503-725-3307 or Ticketmaster; Wednesday is "pay what you CAN" in conjunction with Oregon Food Bank.)

Portland State University Women's Resource Center presents Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* Feb. 23-26 in Room 355 of Smith Memorial Center. Proceeds benefit the Tri-County Sexual Assault Taskforce. (8 pm Thursday and Friday, 7 pm Sunday. 1825 SW Broadway. \$9-\$12 from 503-725-3307 or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Story Theater presents *Beginner's Luck*, grown-up storytelling that will take you back to your first encounters with relationships, love and sex, through Feb. 18 at Brooklyn Bay Performance Space. Ticket price includes a beverage and a tasty treat! (7:30 pm. 1825 SE Franklin St. \$15 from www.portlandstorytheater.com.)

Radiant Theatre presents *Aliens Stole Bush's Brain: 101 Reasons Why None of This Is Bush's Fault*, a hilarious mock symposium of satirical monologues, Feb. 24-March 5 at Liberty Hall. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 and 8 pm Sunday. 311 N Ivy St. \$5-\$20 sliding scale from 503-502-8261.)

Reed College presents *Tis Pity She's a Whore*, a wry black comedy about a brother and sister who fall in love, through Feb. 18 at Mainstage Theater. (7:30 pm. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. \$1-\$3 from 503-777-7284.)

Reed College presents *Gallows Humor*, a comic critique of modern culture in the context of a small-town prison, Feb. 23-25 at Reed Studio Theatre. (7:30 pm. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. \$1-\$3 from 503-777-7284.)

The Skylark Tappers present *Bits and Pieces*, the 10-member company's long-awaited tap concert featuring a rich diversity of music, new choreography and classic numbers, Feb. 18 and 19 at the Performing Arts Center on Portland Community College's Sylvania Campus. (7:30 pm Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 12000 SW 49th Ave. \$7-\$18 from 503-245-3994.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *Proof*, about a troubled young woman caring for her brilliant but unstable mathematician father, March 3-26. (Call for times. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Stumptown Stages presents the West Coast premiere of *Rapture*, a play with music about a 17th century Italian nun who violates rules restricting musical activity to learn composition, Feb. 24-March 12 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm March 12. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$22 from 503-381-8686.)

White Bird presents Grupo Corpo, Brazil's most popular contemporary dance company, Feb. 28 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$19-\$43 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Reviewed by TIMOTHY KRAUSE. Read more at followspot.blogspot.com.

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