

# on stage

**Agnieszka Laska Dancers** present *Mozart Now and Then*, modern dance and chamber music with the Oregon Symphony String Quartet, April 12 at Newmark Theatre. (8 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$30 from Ticketmaster.)

**Angelle Hebert and Phillip Kraft** present a collaborative performance project through April 9 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 and 8 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$10-\$12 from 503-774-0997.)

**Artists Repertory Theatre** presents *Frozen*, in which the lives of three strangers are connected through the disappearance of a child and the search for answers from a killer in custody, through May 7. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

**Cirque du Soleil** presents *Varekai*, another astonishing spectacle of athleticism and artistry set against a baroque and operatic backdrop, extended through April 23. Hard bodies, slick showmanship and perfection of craft make this a guilty pleasure—and the sight of those sexy, swingin' twins is downright sinful. (Call for times. Southwest Moody Avenue. \$24.50-\$70 from 800-678-5440 or [www.cirquedusoleil.com](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com).)

**Imago Theatre** presents *Hit Me in the Stomach*, in which off-beat music, loopy narratives and inventive visuals collide, through April 8. Music, scenery, costumes and characters all bring to life some trashy trailer-park edition of *The Sims*, left unattended and running on a slower-than-recommended processor: fun at first, then tedious, ultimately futile. While supposedly meaningful, its intentionally stunted delivery seems more a past-prime comedy sketch gimmick, self-indulgent where once provocative. (8 pm. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$10-\$16 from 503-231-9581 or [TicketsWest.com](http://TicketsWest.com).)

**Imago Theatre** revives *Frogz*, its ever-popular creature-theater menagerie of escaped penguins, silent sloths and invisible cats, April 20-May 28. (Call for times. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$16-\$27 from 503-231-9581 or [TicketsWest.com](http://TicketsWest.com).)

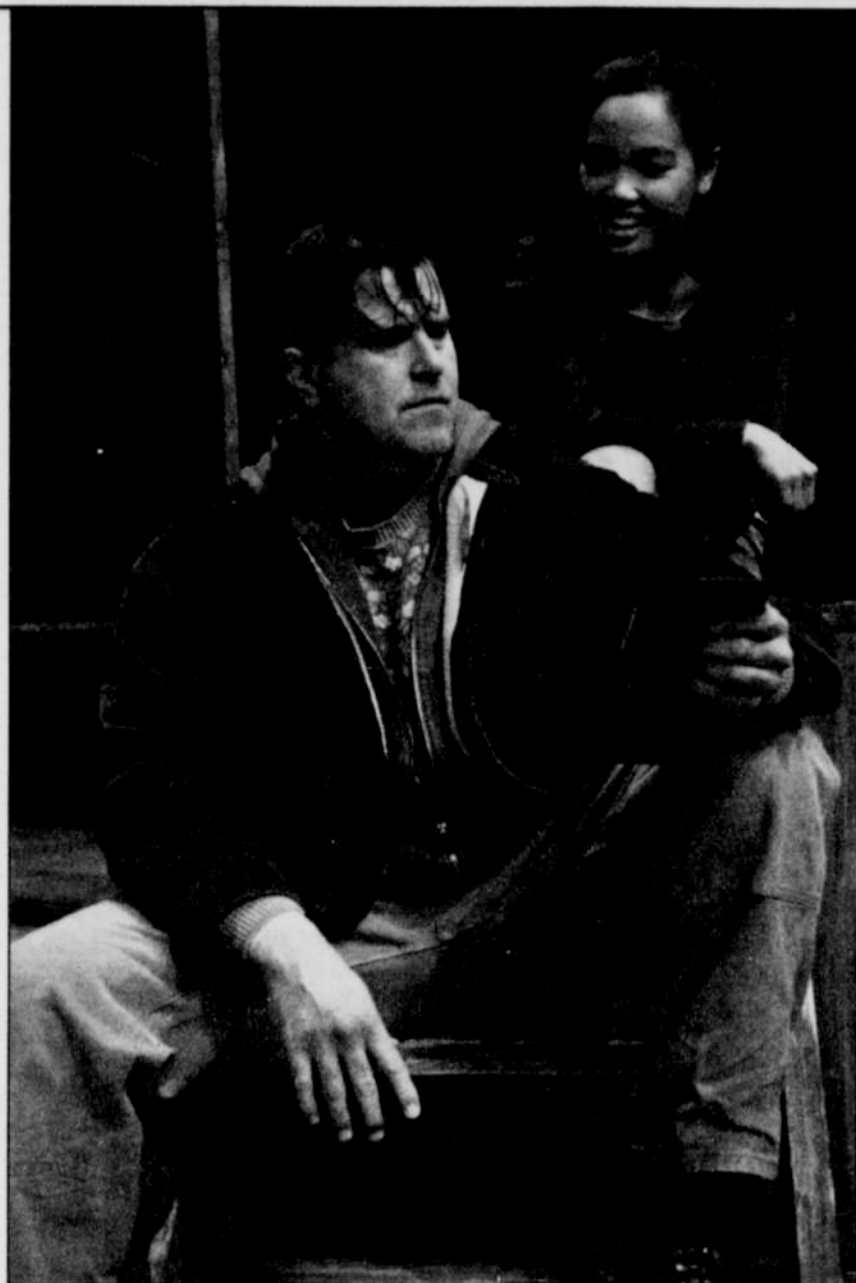
**Insight Out Theatre Collective**, in collaboration with the Debate Society, presents *A Thought About Raya*, a series of colliding scenes plucked from the idiosyncratic mind of Russian absurdist Daniil Khams, April 14-29 at West End Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 3 pm April 23. 1220 SW Taylor St. \$15 from 503-234-0973; Thursdays are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

**Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center** presents *Shylock*, an award-winning solo piece about the highly charged relationship among political correctness, censorship and art, April 13-22. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$12-\$16 from 503-736-1027.)

**Kinetic Images Dance Company** combines modern dance performance, live music, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction through April 8 at Conduit Dance. (7 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. \$12-\$20 from [TicketsWest.com](http://TicketsWest.com).)

**Lakewood Theatre Company** presents the spoofy and spiffy whodunit *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* through April 9. Where this intentionally convoluted corn (not a musical, by the way) might have effortlessly tickled one to death, there is instead a strenuous last gasp for laughs mired in tiresome accents delivered at a deafening tone amid directionless puttering. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$22-\$24 from 503-635-3901.)

**Miracle Theatre Group** presents *Ardiente Paciencia* (*Burning Patience*), based on the novel that inspired the 1995 film *Il Postino* (*The Postman*), which imagines Chilean poet Pablo Neruda befriending a love-struck postman, through April 29. Performed in Spanish with English super-



A young Vietnamese-American piano prodigy encounters a homeless Vietnam veteran who has retreated from society in Profile Theatre Project's *Redwood Curtain* through May 14.

titles Thursdays and Sundays. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$14-\$18 from 503-236-7253.)

**Northwest Children's Theater** presents *Bugsy Malone*, a tongue-in-cheek tribute to 1920s gangster flicks, through April 16 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$12-\$20 from 503-222-4480 or [www.nwcts.org](http://www.nwcts.org).)

**Northwest Children's Theater** presents *The Wrestling Season*, in which eight young people struggle with the destructive power of rumor, through April 8 at Artists Repertory Theatre. Look out—this children's theater is growing up. Pumped staging features outstanding hands-on wrestling sequences pinned by an undaunted young ensemble with enough fearless physicality and genuine presence to check the occasionally false-ish dialogue back into reality. Definitely stay for the post-play forum in which actors still in character tag audience reaction. (7 pm. 1516 SW Alder St. \$12 from 503-222-4480 or [www.nwcts.org](http://www.nwcts.org).)

**Oregon Ballet Theatre** presents its Mozart-themed *Spring Program* featuring Lar Lubovitch's joyful "Concerto Six Twenty-Two" April 22-29 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$8-\$96 from box office or 503-2-BALLET.)

**Oregon Children's Theatre** presents *Alexander, Who's Not, Not, Not, Not, Not, Not Going to Move!*—a musical chock full of pop, Motown and Broadway-inspired songs—April 22-May 14 at Brunish Hall. (11 am and 2 pm Saturday, 2 and 5 pm Sunday. 1111 SW Broadway. \$17-\$22 from 503-228-9571 or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).)

**Oslund + Co./Dance** presents an evening of both all-new and developed repertory works April 14-16 at Imago Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 7 pm Sunday. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$13-\$15 from 503-221-5857 or [director@oslundandco.org](mailto:director@oslundandco.org).)

**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, through April 15 at World Trade Center Theatre. A proficient cast of local musical theater all-stars succeeds in making this an amusing evening, even if McNally's undistinguished, anticlimactic book and David Yazbek's cleverly worded but tone-deaf score are less than revealing. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 8 pm April 13. 121 SW Salmon St. \$33-\$60 from 503-624-0403.)

**Portland Actors Conservatory** presents *Experiment with an Air Pump*, in which the cellar of a house reveals a dark secret buried for 200 years, April 14-30 at Firehouse Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1436 SW Montgomery St. \$15-\$25 from 503-274-1717.)

**Portland Center Stage** presents *Crowns*, a wildly popular new play that lovingly evokes the lives and stories of black women who are captured in the hats they wear to church each Sunday, through April 9 at Newmark Theatre. Who would have thought

a millinery revue could so stylishly cover the thinning, graying locks of Portland musical theater? The interesting-in-their-own-right women get a bit upstaged by the wide, flowery brim of their own gimmick, but these pros hold their heads high with refreshing exuberance and joy. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$56 from 503-274-6588.)

**Portland Center Stage** presents the world premiere of *Celebrity Row*, a thought-provoking comedy that asks, "If four of the world's most notorious convicted criminals had just one hour each day to communicate with each other, what would they talk about?" through April 16 at Winningstad Theatre. In crashing waves of intellect, character and manifesto, playwright Itamar Moses breaks all the rules of conventional theater, imaginatively flooding audiences with a living dossier of four famous men on death row. This is not only thinking theater for the left brain, but an exciting kind of new work that should become PCS brand. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$56 from 503-274-6588.)

**Portland Opera** presents *Studio Artists in Recital* April 8 at Portland Opera Studio. (7:30 pm. 211 SE Caruthers St. \$20 from 503-241-1802.)

**Portland Opera's Broadway in Portland** presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's uplifting musical about the trials and triumphs of Israel's favorite son, through April 9 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$20-\$62 from 503-241-1802 or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).)

**Profile Theatre Project** continues its Lanford Wilson season with *Redwood Curtain*, in which a young Vietnamese-American piano prodigy in search of her biological father

encounters a homeless Vietnam veteran who has retreated from society, through May 14 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$13-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

**Readers Theatre Repertory** presents *Fifth Season: Five World Premieres*, one-acts by four area playwrights, April 14 and 15 at Blackfish Gallery. (8 pm. 420 NW Ninth Ave. \$8 from 503-295-4997.)

**Reed College** presents two short plays by Maria Irene Fornes: *Dr. Kheal*, a satiric representation of a vacuous, venomous academic lecture, and *Red Burning Light*, a Broadway-esque musical skewering Western militarism and cultural imperialism, through April 8 at Mainstage Theater. (7:30 pm. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. \$1-\$5 from 503-777-7284.)

**Slocum House Theatre** presents *Enchanted April*, the story of two proper London housewives' romantic month in the Mediterranean sunshine, April 21-May 14. (Call for times. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

**Sojourn Theatre** presents *The War Project: 9 Acts of Determination*, a partially interview-based, poetic investigation of how, as a nation, the country's citizenry decides what to kill and die for, through April 15. Rebelling against traditional storytelling and easy answers, Sojourn's gesticulated meta-staging of issue-related discourse provokes several stinging scenes of heedful documentary. The best part, though, is the thoughtful post-play conversation that assuredly will ensue. (Call for times. Suite 104, 215 SE Ninth Ave. \$10-\$15 from 971-544-0464.)

**Sowelu Theater Ensemble** presents *The Water Principle*, a metaphorical play about forgotten landscapes and aggressive land grabs, through April 22 at Back Door Theater. Neither perfect nor easy, this dangerously wise and underhandedly funny work pays off days later when you can't stop thinking about its desperate imagination gone awry. Michael Fettes is flawless. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm April 9 and 16. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$8-\$15 from 503-230-2090.)

**Stark Raving Theatre** presents *The Mark*, in which three actors play multiple characters whose lives intertwine through three poetic dramas, through April 22. A well-cast trio brings depth to an otherwise simplistic Lifetime triptych in this modern melodrama from Portland playwright Gretchen Icenogle. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 7 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$10-\$20 from 503-232-7072; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

**Stark Raving Theatre** puts writers in the hot seat in the improv hit *The Writer's Nightmare* April 14-22. (11 pm Friday and Saturday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$10 from 503-232-7072.)

**Theatre Vertigo**, in collaboration with Defunkt Theatre, presents *Like I Say*, a mysterious and comic story about a peculiar group of travelers who try to make some sense of life and get a hold of some ready cash, April 14-May 13 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

**White Bird** presents the eagerly awaited return of Mark Morris Dance Group April 19 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$19-\$43 from box office or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).)

Reviewed by TIMOTHY KRAUSE. Read more and comment at [followspot.blogspot.com](http://followspot.blogspot.com).



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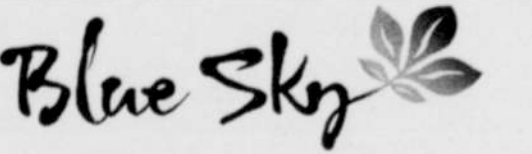
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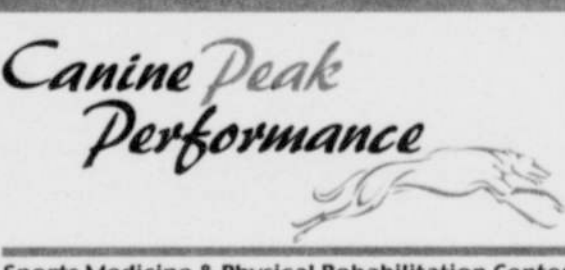
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