

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents Stephen Sondheim's Tony-winning musical *Assassins* through June 4. Who needs a storyline (or even a memorable song, for that matter) when this sideshow history lesson revues such killer talent as the fascinating Randall Stuart, masterful Kirk Mouser, showgirl Sharonlee McLean and psycho Kevin-Michael Moore. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Theater District*, a gentle comedy by Richard Kramer (*thirtysomething*, *My So-Called Life*) exploring the humor and heartbreak of defining the new rules of a nontraditional family in contemporary society, May 23-July 2. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

BodyVox revives the company's inaugural work, *The Big Room*, with a new section inspired by Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* through May 20 at Newmark Theatre. (7:30 pm Friday, 2 and 7:30 pm Saturday. 1111 SW Broadway. \$15-\$36 from 503-229-0627.)

Brooklyn Bay revives *Tao Soup*, a savory blend of Eastern and Western influences utilizing text, movement, music, sound and an assortment of unpredictable delights and surprises, through June 17. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 1825 SE Franklin St. \$10-\$15 from 503-777-5879.)

CoHo Productions presents *By the Bog of Cats*, a new Medea story of vengeance and forgiveness set in modern Ireland, through June 10. Interesting rethinking of ancient myth, but is it the obvious script that's heavy-handed, or simply the barrage of nonstop accent? That aside, *Cats* has an engaging cast, most notably the granny/girlie talent of Vana O'Brien and Gracie Starr. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$19-\$22 from 503-220-COHO.)

Do Jump! Extremely Physical Theater presents *And Then...*, a new work inspired by the paintings of Marc Chagall, through May 21 at Echo Theatre. A trim selection of competitive gymnastics dressed up in pretty theatrics, though the immediacy of such close-up work

doesn't pardon lack of the precision and sense of weightlessness that turns sport into magic. Still, how cool that such imagination is fostered in our hometown. (Call for times. 1515 SE 37th Ave. \$15-\$22 from 503-231-1232 or www.dojump.org.)

Fever Theatre presents *Mitlauler (Fellow Traveler)*, a show about the controversial life of Nazi-era filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl (*Triumph of the Will*), through May 27 at Goldsmith Building. (8 pm Thursday, 8 and 10 pm Friday and Saturday. 20 NW Fifth Ave. \$10-\$15 sliding scale from 503-233-4420; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

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

Integrity Productions presents *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, Neil Simon's own rewrite of his beloved 1965 comedy, June 1-July 2 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-286-3456; Thursdays except June 1 are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

Jakers Productions presents *Silence*, a play full of humor and sexual politics about a young lord forced to marry a feisty French princess at the behest of the English king,



Performance Works Northwest presents *Not Afraid of the Dark* June 2-4.

through June 24 at Back Door Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$15-\$18 from 503-784-7316; Thursdays except June 1 and 22 are "pay what you will.")

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *Hello, Dolly!*, the beloved American musical about an 1890s matchmaker, through June 11. A happily spry production of an old chestnut featuring a golden musical theater pairing of the lithe Alan Anderson and playful Todd Tschida, not to mention a convivial and enthusiastic chorus cheered on by Alan D. Lytle's swell-sounding orchestra. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$25-\$27 from 503-635-3901.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents *Clean*, an inquiry into the power of faith involving a Puerto Rican family seeking salvation from their aching hearts, through June 3. *Clean* is an excitingly defiant, surprisingly romantic black comedy that, like any heart, forgivably skips a beat in the headstrong rush of taboo love. Kurt Conroyd is adorable as Gustavito, a boy who develops a crush on a priest. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$16-\$20 from 503-236-7253.)

Northwest Academy presents *Iago's Table*, a contemporary adaptation of Shakespeare's *Othello* featuring a young, all-female cast, May 25-28. (7 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1130 SW Main St. \$5-\$9 from 503-701-5554.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents *Seussical, the Musical* through May 28 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. Though less rebellious than its literary counterpart, this Seuss is just as irresistibly appealing with many things to praise, including John Ellingson's playfully poised Cat in the Hat; Lucas Welsh's endearing, golden-throated Horton the Elephant; and a cast of thousands unified under the fantastically detailed eye of director/choreographer Sarah Jane Hardy. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$12-\$20 from 503-222-4480 or www.nwcts.org.)

Performance Works Northwest presents *Not Afraid of the Dark*, a special edition of *Cabaret Boris & Natasha*, June 2-4. (8 pm. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$12-\$15 sliding scale from 503-777-1907.)

Portland Center for the Performing Arts presents *Menopause: The Musical*—four women at a lingerie sale with nothing in common but a black lace bra, memory loss, hot flashes and night sweats—through June 25 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$44.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Metro Performing Arts Center presents the final run of *Hot Flashes*, a comedy that follows the career of a five-woman band from their 40s to their 70s, through June 3. (Call for times. 9933 SE Pine St. \$20-\$24 from 503-775-8017 or www.hotflashesmusical.com.)

Portland Opera presents Mozart's *Don Giovanni* May 20 at Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$37-\$133 from 503-241-1802 or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Opera's Broadway Across America presents Tony nominee Cathy Rigby in her farewell performance as *Peter Pan* May 23-28 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$20-\$57 from 503-241-1802 or Ticketmaster.)

Portland State University presents *Big Love*, a modern remake of Aeschylus' *The Suppliant Women*, about 50 Greek runaway brides seeking asylum in Italy, May 26-June 3 at Lincoln Hall. (7:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$3.50-\$9 from 503-725-3307 or Ticketmaster; Wednesday is "pay what you CAN" in conjunction with Oregon Food Bank.)

Radiant Theatre presents *Tommy*, The Who's rock opera about a young boy who reaches stardom from a place of pain, through June 10 at Liberty Hall. Like collegiate after-party karaoke, this rudimentary production drinks in the music, featuring an instinctively sexy, spirited Ian Anderson-Priddy and bet-she-cracks-a-whip Ashly Will. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. No show May 19. 311 N Ivy St. \$17-\$20 from 503-502-8261; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

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



Former Mr. Gay Pride Scott Weimer (right) performs during *Night of 100 Stars 2006* through May 20 at World Trade Center Theatre.



Ariel Gore reads from *The Traveling Death and Resurrection Show* May 31 at In Other Words.

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