

# on stage

**Anne Rutherford** presents *Happy to Be Here*, solo storytelling performances celebrating the pleasures and pratfalls of falling into joy, June 17 and 24 at Subud Center. (7:30 pm. 3185 NE Regents Drive. \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance from 503-235-2633 or [www.annerutherford.com](http://www.annerutherford.com).)

**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, through July 2. This is slick work—a warm, gratifying story played by a well-qualified cast that strings together many multifaceted moments of honest, this-is-who-we've-become reality. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

**Arts Equity** presents *Shoehorn's Saxovision*, a one-man, two-act, multimedia theater show by the tap-dancing saxophonist, June 16 at Main Street Theater in Vancouver, Wash. (8 pm. 606 Main St. \$10 from 360-695-3770.)

**Back Door Theater** presents the world premiere of *The Centering*, a gripping one-man show exploring the fragile psyche of a political prisoner who escapes to the only refuge available—the circus clown within his mind—through June 24. (11 pm Friday and Saturday, 7 pm Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$7-\$10 from 503-956-6089.)

**The Bluestockings**, a new all-female company, presents *An Adult Evening with Shel Silverstein*, 10 imaginative, darkly comedic short plays from the acclaimed poet, illustrator and lyricist, through June 24 at Theater Theatre. (10:30 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$12 from 503-274-9309.)

**Broadway Rose Theatre Company** presents *42nd Street*, a musical spectacular based on the classic 1933 movie of the same name, June 30-July 16 at Deb Fennell Auditorium in Tigard. (Call for times. 9000 SW Durham Road. \$19-\$26 from 503-620-5262.)

**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, extended through July 1. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 1825 SE Franklin St. \$10-\$15 from 503-777-5879.)

**Eleanor O'Brien** presents the Portland premiere of her one-woman show, *Girls' Guide*, a hilarious, heartwarming and unabashedly graphic account of her stint as a dominatrix-in-training at a lively New York S/M house, June 29-July 1 at Theater Theatre. (10:30 pm. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10.)

**Integrity Productions** presents *The Odd Couple (Female Version)*, Neil Simon's own rewrite of his beloved 1965 comedy, through July 2 at Theater Theatre. The script's somewhat stale, and the performances are a bit mild, at least until the second-act arrival of the hilarious Costazuela brothers (John San Nicolas and Casey McFeron). (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-286-3456; Thursdays are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

**Jakers Productions** presents *Silence*, a play full of humor and sexual/gender politics about a young lord forced to marry a feisty French princess at the behest of the English king, through June 24 at Back Door Theatre. This quasi-historical comedy journeys through a wondrously broad landscape filled with signs of serious contemporary issues, though motley characters stick largely to the middle of the steep and winding road. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$15-\$18 from 503-784-7316.)

**La Bodega Productions** presents *The Trial*, the story of a man accused of a crime that he has no knowledge of having committed, through July 1 at Theater Theatre. The strength in Steve Coker's original translation of Franz Kafka's still frighteningly relevant and timely classic is its dark, comedic spin, which leaves one a bit dizzy even when the production doesn't quite make a full revolution. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$12-\$15 from [www.labodegaproductions.com](http://www.labodegaproductions.com); Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

Gay choreographer **Mike Barber** and **Crispin Spaeth Dance Group** present *10 Tiny Dances: Portland and Seattle*—a fabulous lineup of brave performers doing short dances on a small stage—June 25 at Doug Fir Lounge. (7:30 pm. 830 E Burnside St. \$15.)

**Modern Garage Movement**, featuring queer New York City choreographer Jbird Leary, presents "modern dance



**Impetus Arts** presents *Private Dances/Public Works* June 17 and 24.

for the garage" followed by a dance party June 30 at New American Art Union. Also featuring a one-man show by Portland performer Joe VonAppen. (8 pm. 922 SE Ankeny St. \$5.)

**Modern Garage Movement**, featuring queer New York City choreographer Jbird Leary, presents "modern dance for the garage" July 1 at Q Center. (8 pm. 1028 SE Water Ave. Free.)

**Portland Actors Conservatory** presents *Kimberly Akimbo*, an award-winning comedy about a post-menopausal teen-ager with a rare illness that makes her body age four times the rate it should, through June 25 at Firehouse Theatre. (Call for times. 1436 SW Montgomery St. \$15-\$25 from 503-274-1717.)

**Portland Actors Ensemble** presents the first of two free summer Shakespeare in the Park productions, *Macbeth*, through July 15 at Pettygrove Park. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. Southwest Fourth Avenue and Montgomery Street. [www.portlandactors.com](http://www.portlandactors.com).)

**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—extended through Aug. 6 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$44.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

**Portland Opera's Broadway Across America** presents *Hairspray*, the Tony-winning musical comedy phenomenon based on the cult film by John Waters, June 20-25 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$25-\$75 from 503-241-1802 or Ticketmaster.)

**Slocum House Theatre** presents *The Foreigner*, about a British demolition expert who visits rural Georgia with a pathologically shy woman who overhears more than he should, through July 2. (Call for times. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

**Summer Morgan Dance** presents *Impending Waltz, Florence Chadwick vs. The Strait of Gibraltar* and *The Miss Adventures of Pogo* June 24 and 25 at Conduit Dance. (8 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. \$10 from 503-239-5350.)

**Third Rail Repertory Theatre** presents *The Lonesome West*, a black comedy of two bachelor brothers, each of whom seems to live solely to make the other miserable, through June 17 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. Excellent—a play that makes the season worthwhile. It's modern Irish absurdity presented with Third Rail's consistently high level of craftsmanship—a level of professionalism that should be Portland theater's baseline, not its bar. Opening-night audience seemed one feckin' laugh track, though play's humor and humanity lay beyond lilting punch lines. (8 pm. \$15-\$20 from 503-235-1101 or [www.thirdrailrep.org](http://www.thirdrailrep.org).)

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



**Eleanor O'Brien** offers a *Girls' Guide* to the dominatrix underground June 29-July 1.



**Joe Jackson** performs music from his stunning comeback album June 19 at the Aladdin.



**La Bodega Productions** adapts Franz Kafka's *The Trial* through July 1.

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