

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Metamorphoses*, a reimagining of Ovid's poem cycle that uses a four-foot-deep onstage pool and a wry pop culture sensibility to reframe Greek and Roman myths for contemporary audiences, Sept. 5-Oct. 15. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

Brody Theater presents *Theatresports*, a competition in which two teams of performers create improvised scenes based on audience suggestions and are scored by a panel of judges, through Sept. 1. (9 pm Friday. 1904 NW 27th Ave. \$7-\$10 from www.brodytheater.com.)

Brody Theater presents *Summer in Brodavia*, an evening of long-form improvisation, with the cast creating two different fully improvised pieces starting from audience suggestions, through Sept. 2. (9 pm Saturday. 1904 NW 27th Ave. \$7-\$10 from www.brodytheater.com.)

Classic Greek Theatre of Oregon presents *Orestes*, Euripides' story of young people who have been misled and abandoned by those responsible for guiding and protecting them—their parents, their government and their gods—Sept. 16-Oct. 1 at Reed College's Cerf Theatre and Oct. 5-15 at West End Theatre. Featuring original music by dyke rocker Sarah Dougher. (Call for times. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. and 1220 SW Taylor St. \$10-\$20 from 503-258-9313.)

La Bodega Productions presents the U.S. premiere of *Looking for Olivia*, a play about a bored writer who helps a neighbor who's locked out of her apartment, through

Sept. 16 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10 from 503-998-0034; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

La Bodega Productions presents *Murder at the Howard Johnson's*, a fast-paced comedy of marriage, infidelity and murder, Sept. 8-16 at Theater Theatre. (10:45 pm Friday and Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10 from 503-998-0034.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *Ragtime: The Musical*, a Tony-winning epic story in which the fictional lives of three very different American families become dramatically intertwined with real-life historical figures and events at the turn of the 20th century, Sept. 15-Oct. 29. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$26-\$28 from 503-635-3901.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre takes its studio to an open-air tent downtown for the free 12th annual *OBT Exposed!* Sept. 5-9 in the South Park Blocks. (11:30 am-5:15 pm.)

Portland Actors Ensemble presents the second of two free summer Shakespeare in the Park productions, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, through Sept. 4 at various parks. (3 pm. 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 Sept. 3 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$44.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Community College's Theatre Arts Club presents *Johnathan: An Androgynous Love Affair*, a free play about a straight guy

who faces an identity crisis after falling in love with an androgynous boy, Sept. 8-10 on the Sylvania Campus. (7 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 12000 SW 49th Ave.)

Portland Opera's Broadway Across America presents the Portland premiere of *Wicked*, a musical revealing the untold story about the witches of *The Wizard of Oz*,

Sept. 6-17 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$35-\$74 from Ticketmaster.)

Readers Theatre Repertory presents *Address Unknown*, a timely play written in 1938 warning of the gathering storm clouds of fascism in Germany, Sept. 15 and 16 at Blackfish Gallery. (8 pm. 420 NW Ninth Ave. \$8 from 503-295-4997.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *Smokey Joe's Café*, a look back on the songs of Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller ("On Broadway," "Jailhouse Rock," "Stand by Me"), Sept. 8-Oct. 1. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Stumptown Stages presents the Northwest premiere of the award-winning musical *Reefer Madness!*—a political satire about government misinformation and greed loosely based on the 1936 propaganda film *Tell Your Children*—Sept. 8-Oct. 7 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$22-\$25 from 503-381-8686.)

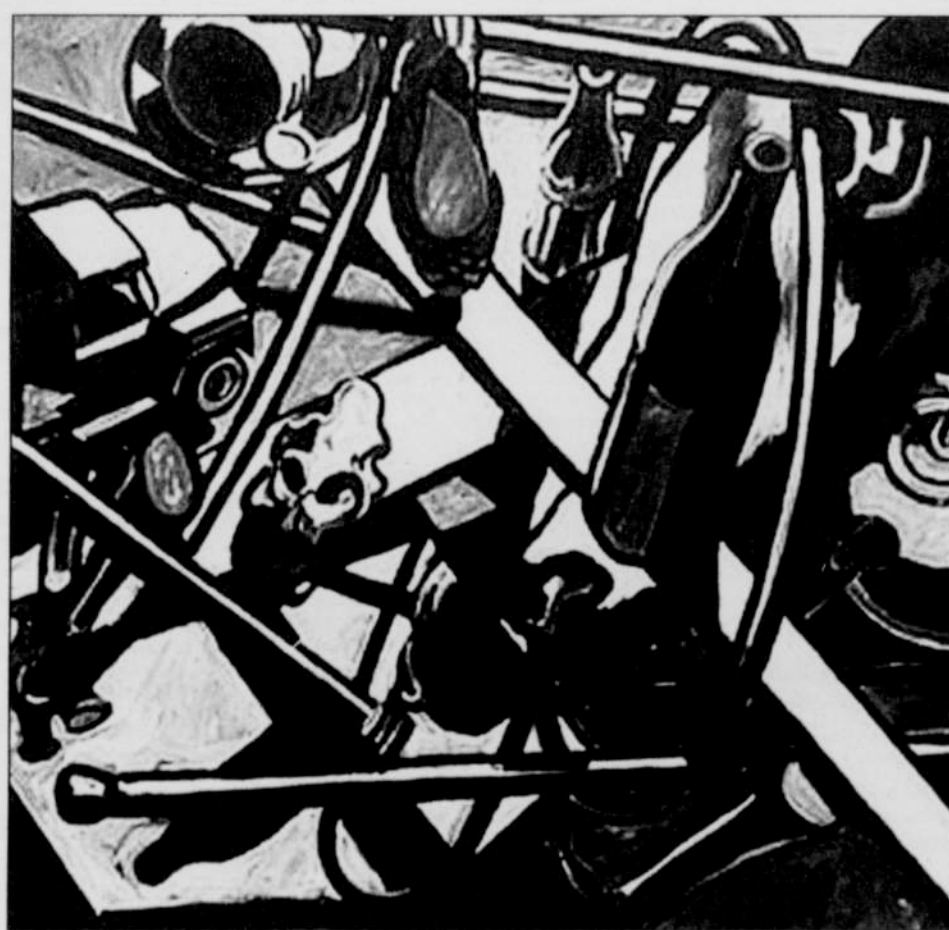
Theatre Vertigo presents *Valparaiso*, a surreal and chilling exploration of the struggle for identity in a culture immersed in celebrity and the media, through Sept. 23 at Theater Theatre. Vertigo maintains its edge by choosing this smartly structured outward commentary on media consumerism, the travesty of which hinges on this ordinary but desperate man's inner journey, here left somewhat unmapped, in need of direction. Still, with several sublime supporting moments in the second act and an overall sense of disquiet, *Valparaiso* heralds a rewarding theater season ahead. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Tonic Productions presents *'night, Mother*, a Pulitzer Prize winner about a woman who learns that her daughter plans to commit suicide, extended through Sept. 3 at CoHo Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 7 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$10-\$15.)

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



ArtBar pays tribute to New Orleans with an exhibit of Bruce Polonsky's photographs through Nov. 12.



Blackfish Gallery presents Michael Knutson's drawings, monoprints and paintings Sept. 5-30.

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