

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Mr. Marmalade*, a wild satire told through the eyes of an extremely precocious 4-year-old and her Tarantino-inspired imaginary friend, through Nov. 19. This clever, disturbingly dark comedy is a contemporary Wonderland—a provocative, cynical, cracked-mirror perspective of the nature of adulthood and its dysfunctional trappings. Though pacing fluctuates and the conclusion seems a tad convenient, *Mr. Marmalade* is otherwise crisp, smart and accessible, featuring obsessively effortless performances from Laura Faye Smith, Tim True and our own Michael Mendelson. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$40 from 503-241-1278.)

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Inspecting Carol*, a horrifying and hilarious play about a troubled production of *A Christmas Carol*, Nov. 14-Dec. 24. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$22.50-\$42.50 from 503-241-1278.)

Arts Equity presents a reading of *Snapdragon*, in which years of terror provoked by her daughter's abusive partner causes a mother to take the law into her own hands, Nov. 4 in Vancouver, Wash. (2 pm. 606 Main St. \$5 donation.)

Brundog Productions presents *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, adapted from Ken Kesey's classic novel about his experiences while working at the Oregon State Mental Hospital, through Dec. 10 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$13-\$16 from 503-286-3456.)

CoHo Productions presents the world premiere of *Jingle Spree*, Dan Trujillo's hilarious but deeply troubling portrait of the contemporary family in which adult actors play both parents and children, through Nov. 18. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$20-\$23 from 503-220-2646.)



Treegoda Productions presents Anton Chekhov's turbulent Russian love story *Three Years* Nov. 9-Dec. 3.

The second annual **Food + Shelter Festival** presents improvised music and dance Nov. 10 and 11 at Center Space. (8 pm. 420 SE Sixth Ave. \$10-\$12 from 503-249-0989.)

Insight Out Theatre Collective presents *Leni*, the story of German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, whose two most famous films, *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympia*, were funded by the Nazi Party, through Nov. 11 at the historic Academy Theater. Here, proficient, dueling Lenis share the stage with extraordinary film clips in a bit of self-eulogy that feels more history than histrionics: interesting, but with a conflict that should be more than academic. (8:30 pm Thursday-Saturday. 7818 SE Stark St. \$15 from 503-493-8070; Thursdays are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents the Tony-nominated comedy *A Tuna Christmas*, in which two actors portray 22 characters living in the third-smallest town in Texas, Nov. 10-Dec. 17. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

Peruvian dancer/performer **Luciana Proaño** presents *Me Siento con Vallejo*, an intimate solo performance interpreting work by the most intense and innovative Peruvian poet at the turn of the 20th century, Nov. 10-12 at Conduit Dance Studio. (8 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. #401. \$10-\$15 from 503-977-0620.)

Metro Dancers and guest companies present *Dance Mosaic*, an exciting repertory concert featuring works from classical ballet to cutting-edge modern, Nov. 18 at Portland Metro Performing Arts. (2 and 8 pm. 9933 SE Pine St. \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance from 503-408-0604.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents Portland's longest-running *Day of the Dead Festival*, an irreverent vaudeville that offers a satirical look at issues of immigration and assimilation for a fun and exciting bilingual journey filled with acrobatics, bawdy comedy and traditional songs and dances, through Nov. 12. Miracle's annual celebration combines dance, music, mime and slapstick to probe and savor contemporary dilemmas of immigration, belonging, cultural continuity and exclusion. Through mostly shorter skits tied together against a linking backdrop narrative, all audience ages are engaged through the closing moments that shine wonderful, tender light on the night's message. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$15-\$18 from 503-236-7253.)

p.boy productions presents Jean Genet's *The Maids*, a dark, absurd and insane story of two sisters who develop a murderous plot against their proprietor, starring and directed by members of the punk drag troupe Sissyboy, Nov. 9-Dec. 9 at Back Door Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. No show Nov. 23. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$12 from 971-506-9291.)

Portland Center Stage presents the American musical masterpiece *West Side Story*, extended through Nov. 12 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. Forget the Sharks and the Jets; here the lines are divided



Brundog Productions stages *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* through Dec. 10.

between the guys vs. the girls—and the women (led by outstanding vocals of Carey Brown, Ivette Sosa and the high-energy shenanigans of Amy Palomino) own the theater's comfy new turf hands-down. Although it isn't until the second act that the innate adrenaline of Leonard Bernstein's soaring score feels truly dangerous, this otherwise solid production is a good indicator that PCS has found a place for itself. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$18.50-\$61.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Center Stage presents the Tony- and Pulitzer-winning *I Am My Own Wife*, a one-man play based on the true story of Charlotte van Mahldorf, an openly transgender East Berliner who survived both Nazi and Soviet rule to become a German hero, Nov. 10-Dec. 23 in the new Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$59.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Civic Theatre Guild presents a reading of *Nixon's Nixon*, a satirical political comedy exploring what might have gone through the president's addled mind the night before his infamous departure from the White House, Nov. 7 at The Old Church. (10:30 am. 1422 SW 11th Ave. \$6.)

Portland Community College presents *The Children's Hour*, Lillian Hellman's masterpiece based on a Scottish trial concerning two old-maid schoolteachers and a child who brought charges of lesbianism against them, Nov. 9-19 at the Sylvania Campus Performing Arts Center. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Nov. 19. No show Nov. 10. 12000 SW 49th Ave. \$8-\$10 from 503-977-4949.)

Portland Metro Performing Arts presents *Flashbacks*, the long-awaited sequel to the hit musical *Hot Flashes*, showing women embracing the challenges of aging and celebrating the second half of their lives, through Nov. 4. (Call for times. 9933 SE Pine St. \$20-\$24 from 503-775-8017.)

Portland Opera presents *Faust*, Charles Gounod's tale of a man who sells his soul to the devil in return for youth and the love of an innocent woman, Nov. 4, 7, 9 and 11 at Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$39-\$140 from Ticketmaster.)

Portland State University presents *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, one of William Shakespeare's lesser-known but glittering gems about boyhood friends who travel to Milan and fall in love with the same girl, Nov. 10-18. (7:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$3.50-\$9.50 from 503-725-3307; Nov. 15 is "pay what you CAN" benefit for Oregon Food Bank.)

Profile Theatre Project opens its Wendy Wasserstein season with *An American Daughter*,

a high-stakes political satire examining how Washington insiders and the media thwart our best and brightest women through increasingly savage scrutiny, extended through Nov. 18 at Theater Theatre. This production strains under a C-SPAN script that's not only pedantic, but also frustratingly baffling. What motivates the lead character's acquiescence could be more interesting than the surrounding circumstances if it were not buried in bland, self-concerned Beltway burling that only a public policy wonk would deem

dramatic. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

Readers Theatre Repertory presents *B Sides*, four lesser-known plays by theatrical greats including gay scribes Lanford Wilson and Tennessee Williams, Nov. 10 and 11 at Blackfish Gallery. (8 pm. 420 NW Ninth Ave. \$8 from 503-295-4997.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *The Seagull*, Anton Chekhov's play about the human tendency to reject love that is freely given and to seek it where it is withheld, through Nov. 12. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Sojourn Theatre presents *One Day*, a collaboration with visionPDX about eight fictional Portlanders (including a lesbian who runs an upscale organic restaurant and a gay homeless teen who has been kicked out of his home) and the unique choices they have to make within a 24-hour period, through Nov. 19 at various venues. Free performances followed by dialogues between audience members and the characters. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. Call 503-823-4430 for locations and reservations.)

Tabuki Theatre presents *Dora's Box*, a psychoromp about an insatiably curious woman who falls under the spell of a porn-horny bisexual casting director, through Nov. 4 at Back Door Theatre. Actress Katie O'Grady shines through intensely personal but often difficult-to-follow ramblings. (8 pm. 4321 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$15 from 503-284-6392.)

Third Rail Repertory Theater presents *The Pavilion*, a tender, comic distillation of time, choice and irrecoverability by Craig Wright (*Six Feet Under*) set at a 20th high school reunion in small-town Minnesota, through Nov. 18 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. A fine, perceptive presentation that offers less midlife reinvention than reassurance. But there's a humble truth in its simple sincerity, supported here by excellent sound, lighting and set designs by Jen Raynak, Kate Morrison and Jeffrey Seats, respectively. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$15-\$24 from 503-235-1101.)

Treegoda Productions presents the Portland premiere of Anton Chekhov's turbulent Russian love story *Three Years* Nov. 9-Dec. 3 at West End Theatre. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 3 pm Sunday. 1220 SW Taylor St. \$15 from 971-255-0604.)

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

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