

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Inspecting Carol*, a horrifying and hilarious play about a troubled production of *A Christmas Carol*, through Dec. 24. It's audience-pleasing without a doubt, even if the silly shtick is initially unwieldy in the hands of the more dramatic leads. Like the office holiday party, this company loses its humbug as the evening progresses. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$22.50-\$42.50 from 503-241-1278.)

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Mars on Life: The Holiday Edition*, Susannah Mars' lighthearted, family-friendly cabaret exploring everything you love to hate about the holidays and featuring a different special guest each night (including queers Chris Coleman, Jon Kretzu, Holcombe Waller, Rick Lewis, Eric Skinner and Marc Acito), Dec. 6-31. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$35 from 503-241-1278.)

Blue Door Productions presents *Hot Buttered Butt*, the newest show by nationally acclaimed sketch comedy troupe The 3rd Floor, through Dec. 30 at Miracle Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 525 SW Stark St. \$10.)

Blue Monkey Theater Company makes its official debut with the West Coast premiere of Disney's musical holiday show *Aladdin* Dec. 8-31 at West End Theatre. (Call for times. 1220 SW Taylor St. \$16-\$20 from 503-777-4506.)

BodyVox presents *First Impressions V. 5*, another evening of entirely new works including a performance piece created by gay filmmaker Gus Van Sant featuring the ZooBombers, Dec. 7-16. (7:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday plus 2 pm Dec. 9. 1300 NW Northrup St. \$24-\$30 from 503-229-0627.)

Broadway Rose Theatre Company presents *Christmas of Swing*, a heartfelt holiday musical revue about The Andrew Sisters, through Dec. 10. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. 22300 SW Boones Ferry Road. \$19-\$26 from 503-620-5262.)

Brudog 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.

In this authentic staging of an Oregon original, Kesey's haunting meditation on loss of native culture and the dangers of rebellion pulses through a meticulously conceived show, where interlocking pieces and performances work together as one. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$13-\$16 from 503-286-3456.)

Conduit Dance Studio kicks off the holiday season with *BeneFête*, an evening of music, food, drink and the magic of live performance (including gay dancer Minh Tran & Company) Dec. 3. (7 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. # 401 \$15-\$25 from 503-221-5857.)

Disjecta presents *A Certain Facilitation of Impasse*, a site-specific work by gay choreographers Mike Barber and Cydney Wilkes that hinges on both external and internal barriers, Dec. 8-10. (8 pm plus 2 pm Sunday. 5 SE Third Ave. \$15 from 503-286-9449.)

Do Jump! presents *Do Jump for the Holidays: At Such a Dizzy Height* featuring lesbian artistic director Robin Lane's newest work inspired by the paintings of Marc Chagall, Dec. 15-29 at Newmark Theatre. (7:30 pm Tuesday-Saturday plus 2 pm Dec. 17. 1111 SW Broadway. \$22-\$28 at the door, \$20-\$26 in advance from 503-231-1232.)

Imago Theatre revives *Big Little Things*, a family-friendly spectacle featuring a plethora of well-choreographed polar bears, raccoon jaibirds, giant bunny rabbits, oversized mason jars and hippos fighting for bed space Dec. 8-31. (Call for times. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$16-\$31 from 503-231-3959.)

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, through Dec. 17. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

Peruvian dancer/performer **Luciana Proaño** revives *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, Dec. 7 at Conduit Dance Studio. (8 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. #401. \$10-\$15 from 503-977-0620.)

Many Hats Collaboration presents the world premiere of queer playwright Lava Alapai's *Mutt*, a biting racial satire about an 18-year-old girl who finds out she's black, through Dec. 9 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. Though still a little raw around the edges, many seriously funny moments of intimate integrity make this a racy mix of the pleasing and the provocative, complemented by smart choreography from Jessica Wallenfels, the Dance Ensemble and Betsy Cross. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$12 from 503-952-6646; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

Northwest Children's Theater presents *Beauty and the Beast*, a musical fairy tale based on the Oscar-winning Disney film, through Dec. 31 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$16-\$20 from 503-222-4480.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre revives George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker* Dec. 8-24 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$18-\$110 from 503-2-BALLET.)

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, through Dec. 9 at Back Door Theatre. Although clever in concept and staged on a fabulous cartoon set that could easily be home for a Mary Kay-selling Liberace, Genet's cunning loquaciousness becomes ever more cluttered among the giddy, the gaudy and the gauche. Still, this type of niche theater invites us to imagine: What next, p.boy? (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$12 from 971-506-9291.)

Pixie Dust Productions revives the Drammy-winning musical hit *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* through

Dec. 23 at World Trade Center. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 121 SW Salmon St. \$29-\$32 from 503-624-0403.)

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 Jan. 2, 2007, at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$44.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

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, through Dec. 31 in the new Gerding Theater at the Armory. The show's standing ovations are due more to the technically masterful delivery of Wade McCollum than the interrupting playwright, who seems to want to inject himself among the crooks and crannies of this multifarious character, who offers enough interesting red herrings of her own. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$59.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Center Stage revives *This Wonderful Life*, a one-man sendup of Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* conceived by gay actor Mark Setlock, through Dec. 24 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 *Bell, Book and Candle*, a supernatural romantic comedy about a beautiful art shop owner who unexpectedly falls hard for a hapless visitor to her store on Christmas Eve, Dec. 5 at The Old Church. (10:30 am. 1422 SW 11th Ave. \$6.)

Portland Opera presents Claudio Monteverdi's baroque masterpiece *The Return of Ulysses* through Dec. 10 in the intimate setting of Hampton Opera Center. (Call for times. 211 SE Caruthers St. \$75 from Ticketmaster.)

Portland Revels presents *Christmas Revels*, an all-ages French medieval celebration of the winter solstice featuring holiday music, dance, comedy and carols, through Dec. 10 at Scottish Rite Center. (Call for times. 1515 SW Morrison St. \$7-\$32 from 503-274-4654.)

Slocum House Theatre presents William Shakespeare's gender-bending romantic comedy *Twelfth Night* through Dec. 17 in Vancouver, Wash. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 605 Esther St. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Sowelu Theater revives *An Evening of Flamenco and Ballads* featuring Spanish soul music by guitarist Stan Olmsted, actor/singer Joaquin Lopez and vocalist Juliet Cardinal with stunning selections by gay poet Federico Garcia Lorca Dec. 14-23 at Back Door Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$15-\$18 from 503-730-9066.)

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

Triangle Productions presents the Northwest premiere of *Sister's Christmas Catechism*, the latest edition of the Late



Kevin Cook, aka Poison Waters, returns for more crown-clawing fun in Triangle Productions' *Pageant* through Dec. 23.

Nite Catechism series, in which a nun unravels "The Mystery of the Magi's Gold," through Dec. 23 at First Unitarian Church. (Call for times. 1011 SW 12th Ave. \$20-\$35 at the door, \$20-\$30 in advance from www.sisterschristmaspdx.com.)

Triangle Productions presents the Northwest premiere of *Plaid Tidings*, a special holiday edition of *Forever Plaid*, the hit musical about four prematurely deceased Eisenhower-era crooners achieving their dream gig for one performance only, through Dec. 23 at Brunish Hall. Everything adorable is back—from smile-inducing songs to goofy bits and nostalgic nods—only this time wrapped with a holiday bow. And you know what? The overtones of holiday good cheer work wonders, thanks to the harmonic ensemble of Bruce Blanchard, Andrew Bray, James Drake and Todd Tschida. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$22-\$28 from Ticketmaster.)

Triangle Productions revives *Pageant*, a spoof of beauty queens starring men in drag, through Dec. 23 at Firehouse Theatre. You could be one of the five judges who will help crown Miss Glamourese 2007! (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 8 pm Dec. 21. 1416 SW Montgomery St. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance from 503-239-5919 or www.tripro.org.)

White Bird presents the Portland debut of the internationally acclaimed Compagnie TchêTché from Côte d'Ivoire performing a work emphasizing the power and passion of African women Dec. 7-9 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. (8 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$14-\$25 from Ticketmaster.)

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



Northwest Children's Theater presents Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* through Dec. 31.

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