

# on stage

**Artists Repertory Theatre** presents a world premiere adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *Vanya* starring Academy Award winner William Hurt that transplants the setting from 19th century Russia to Depression-era America, through Feb. 25. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$24-\$64 from 503-247-1278.)

**Arts Equity** presents *Hot 'n' Throbbing*, a button-pusher that boldly asks, "Which is more obscene, pornography or domestic violence?" through Feb. 25. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Feb. 4 and 25. 606 Main St. \$8-\$24 from 360-695-3770.)

**BodyVox** presents *First Impressions V. 5*, another evening of entirely new works, Feb. 2 and 3 at Columbia Dance Center in Vancouver, Wash. (7:30 pm. 1700 Broadway. \$24-\$30 from 503-229-0627.)

**CoHo Productions** presents gay playwright William S. Gregory's *Chateau Joyeaux*, a tale of a family divided during post-war France, through Feb. 24. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$20-\$23 from 503-220-2646.)

**Defunkt Theatre** presents the Portland premiere of *The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek*, a haunting drama in which a pair of young friends race against death, through Feb. 10 at Back Door Theater. *Trestle* is a slow, dolorous tale of teenage yearning set amid the Great Depression. Despite wonderfully weird moments with two kids under a bridge, the play is overall vaguely incoherent and off-key, with visual compositions and physicality dwarfing its bland language. (8 pm Thursday-Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$15 from 503-481-2960; Thursdays and Sundays are "pay what you will.")

**Discovery Theatre Lab** presents *Phaedra*, a Greek tragedy about a princess who falls for her stepson, through Feb. 4 at Gresham Little Theater. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 30639 SE Bluff Road. \$10.)

**Insight Out Theatre Collective** presents *The Yellow Boat*, based on the true story of a young boy who contracts HIV through a blood transfusion and creates inspired art that transforms his pain, through Feb. 11 at Echo Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 and 7 pm Sunday. 1515 SE 37th Ave. \$15 from 503-493-8070; Sunday evenings are \$5-\$15 sliding scale.)

**Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center** presents *Facets of Africa*, featuring some of Portland's most vibrant storytellers sharing tales from several African cultures followed by an open conversation about the diversity within African cultures, Feb. 1-24. (10 am Thursday, 2 pm Saturday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$5-\$10 from 503-823-9455, ext. 1.)

**Lakewood Theatre Company** presents *Where's Charley?*—a Tony-winning musical packed with Frank Loesser hits—through Feb. 18. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

**Key Productions** presents *Can't Say I Do*, an original musical about same-sex marriage, through Jan. 20 at World Trade Center Theater. The natural pickings of Ian Anderson-Priddy and Meredith Weber lift this softcore, uncitiful activist theater from an otherwise uneven staging. (7:30 pm. 121 SW Salmon St. \$20-\$25 from www.keypdx.com.)

**Madison's Grill** presents the dinner theater musical *Who Stole My Dead Husband* through March 31. (7 pm Saturday. 1109 SE Madison St. \$57-\$67 from 800-966-8865.)

**Miracle Theatre Group** revives *Frida*, un *retablo*, its critically acclaimed bilingual work about the life of Frida Kahlo, through Jan. 20. This straightforward consideration of the bisexual artist moves smoothly and quickly through key events and people, with a simple but pleasing setup of young and old Frida in dialogue that frames a traditional narrative. (8 pm Friday, 2 and 8 pm Saturday. 525 SE Stark St. \$15-\$18 from 503-236-7253.)

**Miracle Theatre Group** presents *Sonia Flew*, a moving account of a Cuban-American woman whose half-Jewish son enlists in the war against terror in Afghanistan in the weeks following 9/11, Feb. 2-24. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$17-\$20 from 503-236-7253.)

**Northwest Children's Theater** presents the Portland premiere of *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*, a musical based on the popular book about a kindergartner who is delighted to learn that her new baby brother is a "real, alive monkey!" Jan. 25-Feb. 26 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$16-\$20 from 503-222-4480.)

**Oregon Children's Theatre** presents the Oregon premiere of *Miss Nelson Is Missing!*—a witty, wacky musical about



Underwear heir Johnny (Steven Cole Hughes) warns the impudent Bentley (Ben Steinfeld) to shape up if he hopes to succeed in marrying his sister in Portland Center Stage's *Misalliance* through Feb. 4.

the substitute teacher from.....well, it's not a nice place—through Jan. 28 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$12-\$23 from 503-228-9571.)

**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 Feb. 18 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$44.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

**Portland Center Stage** presents *Misalliance*, George Bernard Shaw's biting satire that unmasks aristocratic courtship, cavorting and matrimony and decries Edwardian class stratification, through Feb. 4 in the new Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$59.50 from 503-445-3700.)

**Portland Opera's Broadway Across America** presents *Altar Boyz*, a smash off-Broadway musical-comedy spoof about a heavenly boy band on the rise to stardom, Jan. 30-Feb. 4 at Newmark Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$41-\$51 from Ticketmaster.)

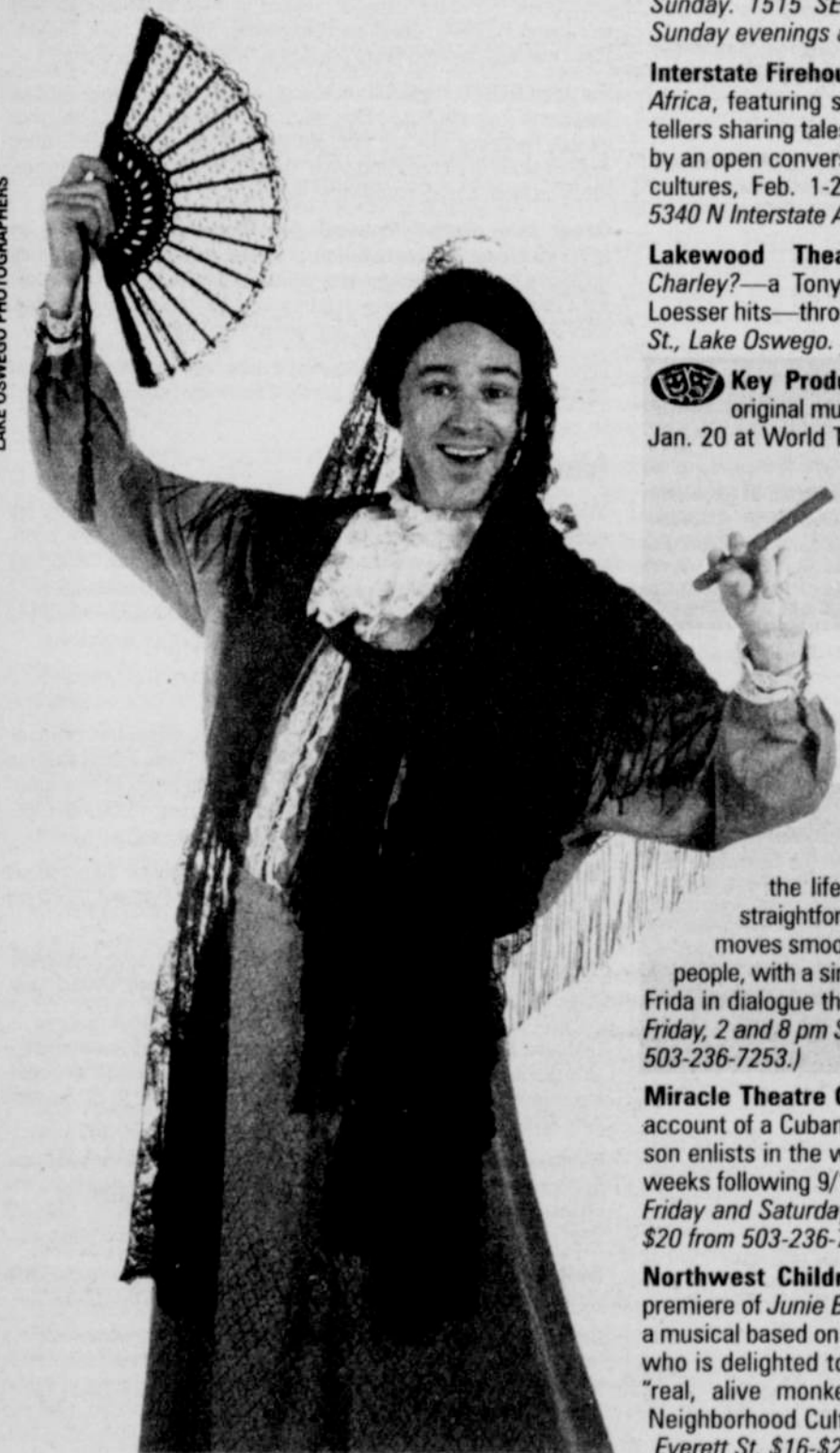
**Profile Theatre Project** continues its Wendy Wasserstein season with *The Heidi Chronicles*, a Tony- and Pulitzer-winning play that follows an art historian through two decades of personal change as women begin to question their roles in society, through Feb. 11 at Theater Theatre. This solid performance of Wasserstein's '80s period piece offers a nonstop parade of witty zingers and a buzz of upper-echelon East Coast name-dropping

and "actor" back-stories interwoven with a hilarious tale about an author and her characters, through Feb. 9 at Theater Theatre. (10:30 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$5 from 503-970-7277; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

**Third Rail Repertory Theater** presents the world premiere of *Number Three* through Feb. 10 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. In this full-volume madcap portrait of 1950s military childhood, Third Rail drags a finger across the sadness and sickness that smudge an American family's gleaming countertops with a production of immaculate details and breakneck pace, though the material is one notch below the cast's potential. Notable: Scott Coopwood goes beyond the bad guy with his broken, touching cries of "royal blood." (8 pm. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$15-\$24 from 503-235-1101.)

**Triangle Productions** presents the Northwest premiere of *Bark!*—a howlingly funny and sometimes poignant musical about man's best friend, as told and sung from the doggie point of view—through March 10 at Artists Repertory Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1516 SW Alder St. \$30 at the door, \$22-\$28 in advance from 503-239-5919 or www.tripro.org.)

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



Gay actor Alan Anderson stars in *Where's Charley?* through Feb. 18 at Lakewood Theatre.

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BBQ on Broadway

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