

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, extended through March 4. In this production that's saturated with color, longing and regret, a powerhouse cast expertly sustains a languid, dreamy tone. Time stops and the stage expands to accommodate beautifully constructed Chekhovian moments in which absolutely nothing—and yet everything—is happening in front of us. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$24-\$64 from 503-241-1278.)

Blue Door Productions presents *Kidshow!* by nationally acclaimed sketch comedy troupe The 3rd Floor through March 24 at Miracle Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 525 SW Stark St. \$10.)

Blue Monkey Theater Company presents *The True Stories of the Three Little Pigs & The Frog Prince (Cont'd)*, a hilarious take on two of the world's most popular fairy tales, March 16-April 1 at West End Theater. (Call for times. 1220 SW Taylor St. \$10-\$20 from 503-777-4506.)

Conduit Dance Studio presents Luciana Proaño's *Faces/Phases: A Chronology of Woman* March 9-18. (8 pm Friday-Sunday, 918 SW Yamhill St. #401. \$15-\$25 from 503-977-0620.)

CoToP Productions presents *The Skriker*, Caryl Churchill's experimental work about a shape-shifting spirit who tries to win the attention of two sisters in England, through March 10 at Theater Theatre. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 971-235-4550.)

Fever Theater presents *Billum Bay*, a ghost story, a puppet show and a tale of darkness and beauty, through March 31 at Goldsmith Building. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 20 NW Fifth Ave. \$10-\$15 sliding scale from 503-715-2656; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

Integrity Productions presents a new take on Noel Coward's *Private Lives* through March 18 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday, 3430 SE Belmont St. \$12-\$15 from 503-286-3456; Thursdays are \$5-\$1,000 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, through March 15. (10 am Thursday, 2 pm Saturday, 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$5-\$10 from 503-823-9455, ext. 1.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *Arcadia*, Tom Stoppard's play about a country house's mysterious links to poet Lord Byron, through April 7. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

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.)

Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's *Henry V* through March 11 at Shoe Box Theatre. NWCTC gets mileage from this in-your-face (literally) performance at an engaging, petri-dish-sized space in which the bare stage setting showcases language, character and close-up nuance. This *Henry* is more accessible than some other Shakespeare history plays, and though a distinctive ensemble ethic can be felt in the show, a resplendent Leif Norby rides the waves of his kingdom. (Call for times. 2110 SE 10th Ave. 503-262-5503.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents premieres by three of America's most distinguished choreographers March 3-10 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$16-\$105 from 503-2-BALLET.)

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 March 25 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$33 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Center Stage presents *Act a Lady*, gay playwright Jordan Harrison's gender-bending farce about three middle-American men who decide to stage a French melodrama in drag, through March 11 in Gerding Theater Studio at the Armory. Like refreshing sparkling cider, this gentle comedy is sweet and bubbly, finishing with an innocent touch of tang. An incredibly endearing, in-the-moment ensemble holds the clever script on even-heel, stabling well its mix of golly and folly amid some of the most outlandish costumes in Portland history thanks to designer Jeff Cone. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$15-\$30 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Center Stage presents *The Thugs*, a humorous tale of paranoia and tedium in the lives of a group of law firm temps, through March 10 in Gerding Theater Studio at the Armory. Dead-on caricatures crafted with super-extreme meticulousness (Sharonlee McLean above them all) lead us through an oddly amusing yet all-too-familiar scenario before collapsing in a confusing climax. Funny while it lasts. (10:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 128 NW 11th Ave. \$21.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Center Stage presents Tony nominee *The Pillowman*, Martin McDonagh's macabre, dire yet humorous modern classic in

which art and artist are on trial, through March 18 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$59.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland State University presents *Hedda Gabler*, the story of a fierce free spirit terrified of being trapped in a life of mediocrity, through March 3 at Lincoln Performance Hall. (7:30 pm, 1620 SW Park Ave. \$3.50-\$9.50 from 503-725-3307.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *Sherlock's Last Case*, in which the greatest detective on earth must solve the case of his life, through March 25. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday, 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Stumptown Stages presents *Grease* with a twist—featuring an all-star Portland cast resurrecting their roles in the musical 30 years later—through March 24 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$22-\$25 from 503-381-8686.)

Tabuki Theatre presents *Goa: A Ghost's Story*, a tale of clashing cultures about two couples (one straight and one lesbian) who fall under the spell of a backgammon-playing guru at a backpacker hostel in India, through March 3 at Back Door Theatre. (8 pm, 4321 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10 from 503-284-6392.)

Triangle Productions presents the Northwest premiere of *Bark!*—a sometimes funny, 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. You might howl at the premise or growl that the score is mathematically derived to please, but canine lovers will find no fault with the precise delivery of this well-trained ensemble that's happily dogged by both the powerful pipes and the personal panache to make this a winning revue of musical bones. (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.)

White Bird presents the West Coast debut of Vietnamese choreogra-

pher Le Vu Long and his dance company, *Together*, March 2 and 3 at Imago Theatre. (8 pm, 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$15.)

White Bird presents the eagerly awaited return of Australia's world-acclaimed Sydney Dance Company performing gay choreographer Stephen Petronio's thrilling *Underland*, featuring music by Nick Cave, March 13 at Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm, 222 SW Clay St. \$19-\$43 from Ticketmaster.)

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



Chelsie Kinney portrays child prodigy Thomasina in Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* through April 7 at Lakewood Theatre.



Annie Vergnetti performs March 8 at Alberta Street Pub.

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