



ANDY SNOW

White Bird presents Dayton Contemporary Dance's dazzling tribute to celebrated artist Jacob Lawrence on April 25.

Forsaking Friendship

Portland-born writer Kathrine Kressmann Taylor knew something was rotten in Germany well before the Holocaust took the lives of approximately 6 million Jews.

Prior to World War II she had German friends in the United States who moved back to their homeland, became Nazis and turned their backs on former Jewish friends on a return visit to the States. In response Taylor wrote *Address Unknown*, a short novel about a friendship destroyed by one man's growing allegiance to Nazism. At the behest of her editor, she used the male pseudonym "Kressmann Taylor" when she published the piece to wide acclaim in *Reader's Digest*.

Story Press reissued *Address Unknown* in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of concentration camp liberations, and playwright Frank Dunlop later adapted it for the stage.

This month Readers Theatre Repertory, a Portland company known for staged readings, presents *Address Unknown* as a full-on theatrical production starring Tobias Andersen and gay actor Michael Mendelson.

Director Mary McDonald-Lewis speaks passionately about the project, which has the support of the Oregon Holocaust Resource Center in Forest Grove. "*Address Unknown* is a performance," she says. "More than that it's an experience. People will grapple with tumultuous thoughts and feelings."

To help audience members process their experiences at the show, McDonald-Lewis will facilitate discussion sessions after each performance. Andersen and Mendelson will be on deck to answer questions, along with Holocaust survivors and scholars.

Mendelson, who is an acting coach as well as an actor, has many Portland stage credits to his name, including recent roles in Artists Repertory Theatre's *Mr. Marmalade* and Profile Theatre's *The Heidi Chronicles*. In *Address Unknown* he plays Max, a Jewish gallery own-



Tobias Andersen (left) and Michael Mendelson star in Readers Theatre Repertory's *Address Unknown*.

er who stays in San Francisco while his German business partner, Martin, moves to Germany, becomes a Nazi and offers no support when Max believes that his sister is missing in Germany.

When asked if the play is still relevant, Mendelson replied: "There is so much fascism and 'us vs. them' attitudes right now. The hate is unbelievable, and this play speaks to this. What choices would you make in this situation? Who and why would you side with?"

On top of his contagious enthusiasm for the material, Mendelson likes pretending to be straight. "In this town gay actors don't get many opportunities to play nongay roles," he explains. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to explore this character."

Address Unknown runs through April 29 at Winningstad Theatre, 1111 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$16.50-\$23.50 from TicketsWest.

—Stephen Blair



T. CHARLES ERICKSON

Fences explores the African-American experience in mid-20th century America through May 6 at Portland Center Stage.

Casey's NightClub & Lounge invites you to take a sneak peek at its two-level space featuring live DJs and go-go boys. Complimentary limo service from Stark Street! (7-9 pm VIP reception, 9 pm-2 am sneak peek. 610 NW Couch St.)

Ladies are invited to mingle at the beautiful Edgewood Manor during *Eat My Martini*. (7:30-10:30 pm. Register at www.yourplaceormineproductions.com.)

BearBust at Gail's Dirty Duck. (8-11 pm. 429 NW Third Ave. \$8 members, \$10 nonmembers.)

Tip your hat to *Crystal's Country Jam* at the Portland Metro Club (PPAA). (8-9 pm lessons, 9 pm-1 am dancing. 618 SE Alder St. \$5, \$8 with lessons.)

SUN • APRIL 22

The Adventure Group takes a moderate hike from Wahkeena Falls to Multnomah Falls showcasing some of the most scenic areas of the Columbia River Gorge. Meet in Starbucks at Hollywood Fred Meyer. (9 am. 3030 NE Weidler St. Steve 503-762-2385.)



Who knew that one of the smallest, most diverse and most endangered ecosystems in North America is nestled on 26 acres in West Linn? Q-LAND and LoveTribe explore the beautiful spring wildflowers and unique plants at *Camassia Natural Area* followed by a delicious

dinner. (1:30 pm carpool, 2:15 pm walk. RSVP to 503-223-8822 or www.lovetribe.org/menspirit.)

The Portland Arts & Lectures series welcomes humorist David Sedaris to Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$30-\$60 from www.literary-arts.org.)

The hottest multibar game show returns! Bolivia "Dawson" Carmichaels hosts *Family Feud Bar Wars—Episode II: Attack of the Queens* at Darcelle XV Showplace. Tonight it's your favorite staff members from Red Cap Garage vs. C.C. Slaughters! (9 pm. 208 NW Third Ave.)

MON • APRIL 23

In Other Words presents Alexis Wolf and Lily reading from their new zines, *Ilse Content 6* and *Bar of Soap*, and celebrating the release of a spoken word CD in an interactive show including tape loops and puppets! (5 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)

Dan Mathews, openly gay senior vice president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, reads from his wildly entertaining memoir, *Committed*, at Powell's on Hawthorne. (7:30 pm. 3723 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

Queer Boston singer/songwriter Liz Stahler brings her lyrical storytelling and charming wit to imbibe with queer Brooklyn singer/songwriter Nathan Duprey. (9 pm. 2229 SE Hawthorne Blvd.)

TUE • APRIL 24

Gay-owned Wild Abandon Restaurant celebrates 12 years in business, a new chef and one of the city's best outdoor seating areas by donating 60 percent of tonight's proceeds to Our House of Portland. (4:30 pm. 2411 SE Belmont St.)

Lewis & Clark College's Fir Acres Black Box Theatre presents *XY(T)*, a free one-person show that brings to life a series of questions, contradictions and characters around the theme of testosterone. Transgender butch Kestryl Lowrey strips away layers of gender and identity in a dynamic performance that veers between playful and poignant. Repeats April 26. (7 pm. 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road. RSVP to 503-866-6684.)

Liz Stahler performs music from her debut disc, *Stiches in My Sleeve*, at The Green Room. Nathan Duprey opens. (9 pm. 2280 NW Thurman St.)

Logo premieres *The Big Gay Sketch Show* featuring a combination of traditional and music-based sketches, pop culture parodies and recurring characters, all from a unique queer perspective. Executive produced by Rosie O'Donnell. (10 pm.)

WED • APRIL 25

GO OUT Q-LAND's Young Homos, a group for queer men and allies 18 to 29 years old, presents *Spring Fever*, a social event featuring stories about sex, intimacy, relationships, friends-with-benefits and all of the other confusing options for sex in the city. (6-8 pm. 201 SE 12th Ave. groups.myspace.com/yahos.)

In Other Words Women's Books and Resources presents *Because Reading Is Sexy: The Dirty Queer Book Club* on the last Wednesday of each month. Riding the wave of Dirty Queer, Portland's only X-rated open mike, the group will let loose to discuss the best in queer, perty, kinky porn—with 10 percent off sexy selections! (7 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St. \$1 donation.)

Oregon Bears teach American Sign Language to queers and all interested people during *Sign Night* every second and fourth Wednesday at the Fox & Hounds. (7-9 pm. 217 NW Second Ave. bearsasl@yahoo.com.)

THU • APRIL 26

Oregon Tradeswomen offers an information session at the Portland Community College Workforce Training Center in which participants prepare for high-wage, high-skilled careers in the building trades and learn about apprenticeships. (2-4 pm. 5600 NE 42nd Ave. Register at 503-335-8200, ext. 21.)

In Other Words presents *Pushing the Boundaries: Blueswomen and Women in Hip-Hop*. From 1920 until 1929, an astounding group of black women entertainers became wildly popular blues singers, using what had been up till then a male-dominated art form to speak their own truth to power. How are their challenges similar to those faced by today's women hip-hop artists? (6:30 pm. 8 NE Killingsworth St.)