

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *The Retreat from Moscow*, a nuanced tale of domestic heart-break about a quiet history teacher who wants out of his 34-year marriage to a theatrical poet, through April 29. Old pros Keith Scales and JoAnn Johnson, together with newcomer Alex Moggridge, craft a particular elegance from the intimate, real-time moments of this private tragedy. Little new is revealed, but there are unspoken truths. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$42.50 from 503-241-1278.)

Arts Equity presents *The Long Voyage Home*, Eugene O'Neill's four one-acts about an ethnically diverse group of sailors, through April 22. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm April 22. 606 Main St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$24 from 360-695-3770.)

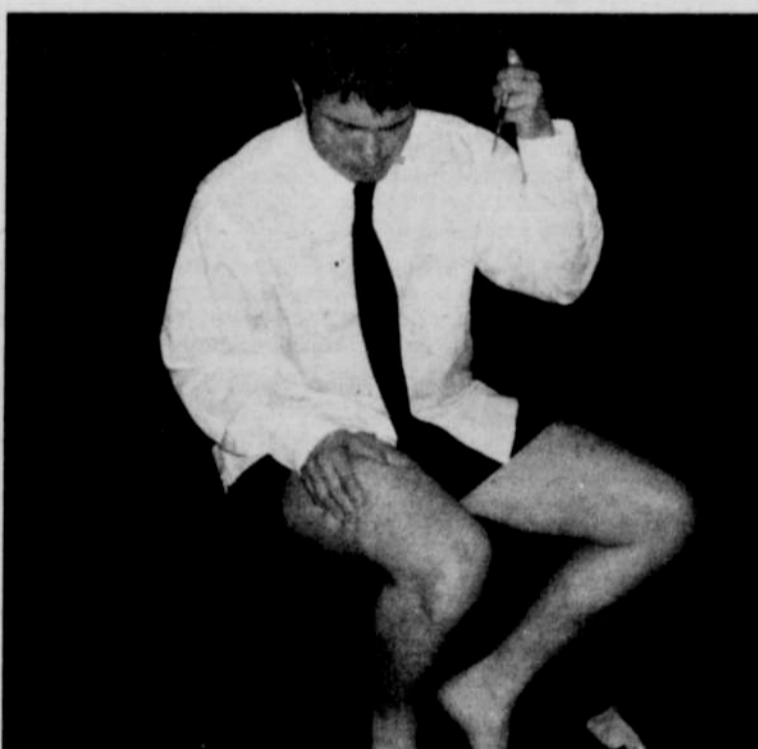
BroadArts Theatre presents a quirky urban-folk rock 'n' roll musical spiraling around 40 *WonderBros*: *The Babes and Broads Who Broke the Rules* through May 5 at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1907 NE 46th Ave. \$18-\$22 from 503-288-5181.)

Brooklyn Bay Performance Space presents *The Liar's Club*, in which performers spin five outrageous lies that transport and enthrall while gradually revealing the hidden truth alive at the center of each one, April 27-June 2. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 1825 SE Franklin St. \$12-\$15 from 503-772-4005.)

CoHo Productions presents the Northwest premiere of *My Matisse*, depicting the vibrant painter through the eyes of the seven most important women in his life, April 27-June 2. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$20-\$23 from 503-220-2646.)

Defunkt Theatre presents the world premiere of *In Apparati*, a poetic and fragmentary examination of captivity, identity and freedom in which four prisoners are held under different but unspecified pretenses and locked in movement-restrictive devices in an unnamed detention facility, April 26-May 26 at Back Door Theater. (8 pm Thursday-Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$15 from 503-481-2960; Thursdays and Sundays are "pay what you will.")

Duke Productions presents *Gonzo—A Brutal Chrysalis*, a raw, unflinching and intimate look at the life of Hunter S. Thompson during the critical and catalytic years between 1968 and 1971, through April 28 at various venues. (Call for times and locations. \$10-\$15 from www.gonzoduke.com.)



Transgender butch Kestryl Lowrey explores the theme of testosterone in *XY(7)* April 24 and 26 at Lewis & Clark.

Ferris Wheel Productions presents *The Star-Spangled Girl*, Neil Simon's hilarious play about two young educated roommates who struggle earnestly to publish a liberal political magazine with a beautiful blond conservative from the South living next door, through April 21 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (Call for times. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$21 at the door, \$17 in advance from 503-616-4791.)

Firehouse Theatre presents *Avian Fable*, dancer/choreographer Suniti Dernovsek's fantastical performance that brings visual artist David Stein's surreal paintings to life on stage, May 3-6. (8 pm. 1346 SW Montgomery St. \$10-\$13 from 503-913-8959.)

Gresham Little Theater presents *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, a raucous comedy about a 1940s household that's upturned when a high-profile guest slips on the doorstep and breaks his hip, May 4-20. (7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 30639 SE Bluff Road. \$10 from 503-267-2750.)

Hand2Mouth Theatre presents *Repeat After Me*, one part karaoke sing-along gone wrong, one part dance theater and one part nightmare to get at the heart of what it means to be an American, through April 29 at Goldsmith Performance Lab. (8 pm Thursday-Sunday. 20 NW Fifth Ave. \$10-\$15 sliding scale from 503-235-5284.)

Imago Theatre ends the 20-year run of *Frogz*, perhaps the most famous show to originate from Oregon, through April 29. (Call for times. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$16-\$27 from 503-231-9581.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *Oklahoma!*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical love story about a high-spirited rivalry between local farmers and cowboys, April 27-June 10. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$26-\$28 from 503-635-3901.)

Liminal Performance Group presents *The Theory of Love*, a traveling multimedia lecture-opera proving conclusively that everyone's favorite emotion is more than mere hypothesis, through April 29 at various venues. (8 and 10 pm Friday and Saturday, 8 pm Sunday. Call for locations. \$8-\$15 sliding scale from 503-890-2993.)

Miracle Theatre Group presents *Rosalba y los Llaveros*, a Spanish-language comedy of manners in which a defiant young woman tries to "liberate" her cousins from their provincial lives, through April 28. English subtitles at all shows except Saturdays. This twisty extended-family sitcom/soap opera is performed with energy and aplomb by a fun, high-pitched ensemble despite occasional overdone moments and an overlong script that doesn't know when to end. Suggestion for non-Spanish speakers: Abandon subtitles and just watch energetic, honest performances of this engaging, entertaining evening. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$15-\$18 from 503-236-7253.)

New Century Players presents *Fatal Passage*, a dinner theater murder mystery aboard a trans-Atlantic ocean liner, through April 28 at The Ainsworth House. Formal dress encouraged. (6:30 pm Friday and Saturday. 19130 Lot Whitcomb Drive, Oregon City. \$40 from 503-367-2620.)

New Group Theatre Company presents *Extremities*, a brutal story of attempted rape, retribution and moral dilemma, April 26-May 6 at Theater Theatre. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$12-\$15 from 503-283-5649.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents *Swiss Family Robinson*, a swashbuckling

action-adventure about a shipwrecked family's battles with bloodthirsty pirates and wild animals, May 4-27 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$16-\$20 from 503-222-4480.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents the company premiere of George Balanchine's masterful *Apollo* along with encores of two lighthearted audience favorites (including *Eyes on You*, artistic director Christopher Stowell's tribute to Cole Porter) April 27-May 5 at Newmark Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$16-\$105 from 503-2-BALLET.)

Oregon Children's Theatre presents the West Coast premiere of a hip-hop adaptation of Stephen Crane's much-loved Civil War story *The Red Badge of Courage* May 5-20 at Winningstad Theatre. (2 and 7:30 pm Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1111 SW Broadway. \$18-\$23 from 503-228-9571.)

Performance Works Northwest presents *Describing the Line*, Faith Hunt Levine's modern dance concert rooted in political frustration and peppered with hope for self and community empowerment, April 27-May 5. (8 pm Friday-Sunday. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$8-\$15 sliding scale from www.pdxartix.com.)

Portland Center Stage presents *Fences*, August Wilson's Pulitzer and Tony winner exploring the African-American experience in mid-20th century America, through May 6 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$28-\$59.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Center Stage presents *Bad Dates*, a one-woman show about a single working mother who manages an upscale Manhattan restaurant and decides to start dating again, through June 10 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$21.50-\$41.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland State University presents Mozart's comic satire *Così fan tutte* April 27-May 5 at Lincoln Hall. (Call for times. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$12-\$15 from 503-725-3307.)

Profile Theatre Project continues its Wendy Wasserstein season with *The Sisters Rosensweig*, a night of bickering and bonding among siblings on a search for love, self-definition and fulfillment—whether it's with a gay man, as a Jewish woman in a WASP world or by seeking out a pair of designer heels—through April 22 at Theater Theatre. This is a well-crafted, polished production with a comforting sheen of tradition reflecting the hard lessons of happiness and fulfillment. Performances are compassionate, maturely drawn—and often very funny—from a uniformly generous and keenly composed ensemble (especially Barbara Kerr's genuinely complex Sara and Shelly Lipkin's disarming Mervyn, not to mention Leif Norby strutting around in boxers). (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 and 7 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

Readers Theatre Repertory presents the West Coast premiere of *Address Unknown*, the story of a German Jew



Surreal paintings come to life in dancer/choreographer Suniti Dernovsek's *Avian Fable* May 3-6 at Firehouse Theatre.

and a German gentile separated by an ocean, divided by world politics and devastated by moral choices, through April 29 at Brunish Hall. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$11.50-\$23.50 from TicketsWest.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *Vanities*, a bittersweet comedy that chronicles the divergent lives of three Texas girls, through May 13. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Stumptown Stages revives *Grease* with a twist—featuring an all-star Portland cast resurrecting their roles in the musical 30 years later—May 4-June 30 at World Trade Center Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 121 SW Salmon St. \$25-\$27 from 503-381-8686.)

Theatre Vertigo presents *Tango*, a tragifarc about a son who wants to bring order to his free-spirited family of bohemians but brings about the destruction of the world as he knows it, April 27-May 26 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

The Tragedies Theatre Company presents *Beyond the Fringe*, a legendary British comedy revue featuring sketches about capital punishment, schmaltzy World War II propaganda, stupid people in the media, royalty, Shakespeare and weapons of mass destruction, through May 5 at Village Ballroom. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 700 NE Dekum St. \$10 from 503-367-2100; opening night is "pay what you will.")

White Bird presents Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's dazzling tribute to majestic painter Jacob Lawrence April 25 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$19-\$43 from Ticketmaster.)

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

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