

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *They Came from Way Out There*, a paranormal musical revue set on the wildest outer fringes of American paranoid pop culture, through May 27. This is an engaging premise of alien infestation, but liftoff sputters. Though there are several memorable interstellar moments of physical and found-object comedy, the show could make much, much more of this material. When not jack-hammering the fourth wall, talented, the zany cast fights hard to escape the orbital pull of this mostly known, earthbound script. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$15-\$42.50 from 503-241-1278.)

BodyVox presents *Reverie*, an evening of eight contemporary dances and two short films that create a world of beauty, strength and delight with a bit of humor, May 16-19 at Newmark Theatre. (7:30 pm plus 2 pm Sunday. 1111 SW Broadway. \$10-\$36 from 503-229-0627.)

BroadArts Theatre presents a quirky urban-folk rock 'n' roll musical spiraling around 40 *WonderBreads: The Babes and Breads Who Broke the Rules* extended through May 12 at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. (Call for times. 1907 NE 45th 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, through 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, through 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, through 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.")

Ferris Wheel Productions presents *As the Knife Turns*, a murder mystery cocktail party about hilarious cast of soap stars who find themselves in the middle of a whodunit, May 5 and 12 at the Blue Dragonfly. (6:30 pm. 1195 SE Powell Blvd. \$15 at the door, \$12 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, through May 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, through May 20. (7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 30639 SE Bluff Road. \$10 from 503-267-2750.)

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

Miracle Theatre Group presents *¡Viva Baile!*, a new dance production featuring members of Tango Berretin and Flamenco Arts Academy, May 10-27. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$15-\$20 from 503-236-7253.)

New Century Players presents *Fatal Passage*, a dinner theater murder mystery aboard a trans-Atlantic ocean liner, May 5-13 at The Milwaukie Center. Formal dress encouraged. (6:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 11 am May 13. 5440 SE Kellogg Circle Drive. \$40 from 503-367-2620.)

New Group Theatre Company presents *Extremities*, a brutal story of attempted rape, retribution and moral dilemma, through May 6 at Theater Theatre. (7:30 pm Friday and 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, through May 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) through 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.)

Oslund + Company/Dance presents *Sky*, a new work featuring brazen, powerful, technically demanding choreography, May 18-20 at Imago Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm Sunday. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$14-\$15 from 503-221-5857.)

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, through 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



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African-American experience in mid-20th century America, through May 6 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. From high-caliber performances (especially Wendell Wright's boisterous Troy Maxson and Wandachristine's intricate Rose) to fully fleshed production elements (the very theatrical realism of Scott Bradley's set, Jacqueline Firkins' costumes and R. Lap-Chi Chu's lighting), *Fences* is a major-league home run: a sad, beautiful story well told. (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. Imagine looking for love in all the wrong labels. *Bad Dates* is filled with mass-produced language and an unexceptional story drowned out by frenetic, nonstop shoe and clothing changes. Despite its kitchen sink TV sitcom realism, the character's social background and milieu are decidedly unreal. Instead, one receives an unintentional critique of consumer culture and the shopping mindset as applied to NYC dating. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$21.50-\$41.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Opera presents Mozart's *The Magic Flute* May 12, 15, 17 and 19 at Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$39-\$140 from Ticketmaster.)

Portland State University presents Mozart's comic satire *Così fan tutte* through 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 *Uncommon Women and Others*, her breakthrough play about students at an all-female college who graduate in the late 1960s with high hopes for—and uncertainty about—what the future holds,

May 16-June 17 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 and 7 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

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—through June 30 at World Trade Center Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 121 SW Salmon St. \$25-\$27 from 503-381-8686.)

Theater Theatre presents *Thinking Outside My Box*, Ritah Parrish's one-woman cocktail of brute-abulous self-discovery garnished with a whole mess of funny, through May 25. (11 pm Friday and Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$12.)

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, through May 26 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Third Rail Repertory Theater presents *A Lesson from Aloes*, an award-winning psychological mystery of friendship and politics set during "the silent '60s" in South Africa, through June 2 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$15-\$24 from 503-235-1101.)

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. 700 NE Dekum St. \$10 from 503-367-2100.)

White Bird presents the Portland debut of Aspen Santa Fe Ballet May 10 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$19-\$43 from Ticketmaster.)

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



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