

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.)

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Orson's Shadow*, a comedy about the colliding egos of screen legends Orson Welles and Laurence Olivier, May 22-July 1. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$32.50-\$47.50 from 503-241-1278.)

Blue Monkey Theater Co. presents Disney's *High School Musical* through May 27 at the West End Theatre. A huge, energetic, gregarious and fun-loving cast lands somewhere between *Saved by the Bell* and *Fame*. (7 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. 1220 SW Taylor St. \$16-\$20 from 503-777-4506.)

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, through May 19 at Newmark Theatre. (7:30 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$10-\$36 from 503-229-0627.)

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.)

Classic Greek Theatre of Oregon presents a reading of *Necessity*, gay playwright William S. Gregory's adaptation of the story of Agamemnon's return from the Trojan War transferred to an African-American community in the Deep South at the end of World War I, May 20 and 21 at Theater Theatre. (7 pm. 3430 SE Belmont St.)

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. Surrounded by elaborate sound and video elements, an uneasy spookiness rides ripples of revelation among otherwise deep, still waters of such tranquil, dozy tone that metaphors sometimes floated untethered to storyline. (8 pm Thursday-Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$15 from 503-481-2960; Thursdays and Sundays are "pay what you will.")

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, through May 27. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$15-\$20 from 503-236-7253.)

Miracle Theatre Group revives *Frida*, an critically acclaimed bilingual work about the life of bisexual artist Frida Kahlo, May 31. (7:30 pm. 525 SE Stark St. \$13-\$18 from 503-236-7253.)

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.)

Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare's story of the villainous Scot and his conniving wife, through June 3 at Shoe Box Theater. (7 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$12-\$18 from 503-262-5503.)

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* through May 20 at Winningstad Theatre. This is the real thing—an outstanding ensemble of Andrés Alcalá, Jono Eiland, Chase Fulton and John San Nicolas brings this adaptation to powerful, painful life without a wasted moment in this 65-minute tour of internal and external battlefields. Scorching. Relevant. Compelling. (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, through May 20 at Imago Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm Sunday. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$14-\$15 from 503-221-5857.)

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



Lincoln City's Theatre West stages *Sordid Lives* through May 26.

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 19 at Keller Auditorium. (7:30 pm. 222 SW Clay St. \$39-\$140 from Ticketmaster.)

Portland Opera's Broadway Across America presents the Tony-winning musical *Chicago* starring Lisa Rinna (*Dancing with the Stars*) May 29-June 3 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$23-\$68 from Ticketmaster.)

Portland State University presents *Vinegar Tom*, the story of two 17th century farm women who are named as witches by a man whom they have spurned sexually, juxtaposing scenes from the witch hunts of the 1650s with contemporary musical commentary, May 25-June 2 at Lincoln Hall. (7:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. \$3.50-\$9.50 from 503-725-3307; Wednesday is "Pay-What-You-CAN" Affair in conjunction with Oregon Food Bank.)

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, through 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.)

Profile Theatre Project concludes its Wendy Wasserstein season with a staged reading of *Three*, her final play questioning the liberal world of academia about a professor who accuses a young wrestler of plagiarizing a paper,

June 3-13 at Theater Theatre. (7 pm Sunday-Wednesday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$15 from 503-242-0080.)

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 tragic farce 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. This fascinating, well-chosen script receives a production reminiscent of a bull in a china shop. Nevertheless, the cast is game and plays along, with several actors showing new facets unseen elsewhere. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Theatre West in Lincoln City presents *Sordid Lives*, a black comedy about denizens of a Texas trash cultural black hole who play out their lives against a backdrop of cigarettes, roll-up hair curlers, Airstream trailers and cross-dressing worship of Tammy Wynette, through May 26. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3536 SE Highway 101. \$9-\$10 from 541-994-5663.)

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. Fugard's challenging tale of personal betrayal, fear and political exhaustion struggles hard to put down roots. The chemistry between couple Piet and Gladys feels incomplete, somehow off-key, partially owing to significant age difference, until the arrival of Steve in Act Two, which brings welcome relief to this parched landscape. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$15-\$24 from 503-235-1101.)

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



Outspoken poet Rachel Zolf reads May 20 at New American Art Union.

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