

on stage

Action/Adventure Theatre presents *Fall of the House, Season 2*, an unscripted soap opera following the relationships of five 20-something Portlanders, through Nov. 10 at Theater Theatre. (10:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10 from 503-358-8646; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Blue Monkey Theater Co. revives the cult favorite *Night of the Living Dead* through Oct. 31 at Valley Cinema & Pub in Beaverton. (Call for times. 9360 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway. \$12 from 503-593-2466.)

The Bluestockings present the West Coast premiere of *Spirits to Enforce*, in which 12 superhero telemarketers in a submarine attempt to sell tickets to Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Oct. 25-Nov. 17 at Performance Works NorthWest. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 3 pm Sunday, 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$10 from 503-307-2410; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Classic Greek Theatre of Oregon presents a staged reading of *Electra Orleans*, a modern take on the story of Clytemnestra and her brood, Oct. 28 and 29 at Theater Theatre. (7 pm, 3430 SE Belmont St. Donations from 503-258-9313.)

CoHo Productions presents *Collected Stories*, a Pulitzer finalist dealing with the relationship between an established writer and her aspiring young student, Oct. 26-Dec. 1. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. No show Nov. 22. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$20-\$23 from 503-220-2646.)

Ghaile Windeck Productions/Dance presents *Enchantment Layer 1* through Oct. 21 at Conduit Dance. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm Sunday, 918 SW Yamhill St. #401. \$14-\$15 from 503-710-1788.)

Imago Theatre presents *Double Feature*, featuring the one-act dark comedies *The Father-thing* and *Serial Killer Parents*, through Oct. 27. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$15-\$22 from 503-231-3959.)

Integrity Productions presents the world premiere of *8 Views Toward Center*, comparing and contrasting women from an ancient Persian to a circus performer from 1808 to a "devil" from the 1950s, through Nov. 3 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 performance artist Jaime Lee Christiana's *Chronicles of the Albino Blackbird* through Oct. 21. (2 pm Saturday, 7 pm Sunday, 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$10-\$15 from 503-823-4322.)

Joan Freed presents *Chocolate Confessions*, her one-woman musical comedy about a chocolate shop owner and her mixed assortment of hilarious customers, through Nov. 18 at World Trade Center Theater. (7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, 25 SW Salmon St. \$29 from 503-784-6220.)

Joye Otto presents *Waiting for Lefty*, a raw and powerful piece of protest theater including classic labor songs such as "Union Maid" and "Which Side Are You On?" through Oct. 20 at Performance Works NorthWest. (8 pm, 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$10 from 503-473-6666.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, based on the Oscar-winning movie about a Kansas woman who takes New York by storm during the Roaring '20s,

through Oct. 21. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *The Dinner Party*, Neil Simon's bittersweet comedy about marriage, fidelity and missed opportunities, Nov. 2-Dec. 9. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

Minh Tran & Company presents *Forgotten Memories*, the gay choreographer's "blistering evocation of genocide's ghosts," Nov. 2-4 at Imago Theatre. (7:30 and 9 pm, 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$18-\$20 from 503-838-3006.)

Miracle Theatre celebrates Day of the Dead with *La Carpa del Ausente*, a lively bilingual show of dance, music and spectacle, Oct. 26-Nov. 11. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, 525 SE Stark St. \$15-\$20 from 503-236-7253.)

Miriam Feder presents *The Vestibule*, her one-woman show featuring stories and poems of midlife transitions, through Oct. 20 at HipBone Studio. (8 pm, 1847 E Burnside St. #104. \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance from 503-309-7123.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents *Hank! The Ugly Duckling Musical*, hatched from Hans Christian Andersen's timeless tale, through Oct. 28 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (7 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Saturday and Sunday, 1819 NW Everett St. \$16-\$20 from 503-222-4480.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents *Twilight Tales*, an homage to the iconic science fiction series *The Twilight Zone*, through Oct. 27 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (10 pm Friday and Saturday, 1819 NW Everett St. \$6-\$10 from 503-222-4480.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, newly choreographed by gay artistic director Christopher Stowell and featuring sets and costumes inspired by Oregon's old-growth forests, along with ballets by William Forsythe and James Kudelka through Oct. 20 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$14-\$120 from 503-2-BALLET.)

Oregon Children's Theatre presents Judy Blume's classic *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* Oct. 21-Nov. 3 at Newmark Theatre. (11 am and 2 pm Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, 1111 SW Broadway. \$13-\$24 from 503-228-9571.)

Performance Works NorthWest/Linda Austin Dance presents *Circus Me Around* Oct. 26-Nov. 3. (8 pm Thursday-Sunday, 640 SE Stark St. \$12-\$25 sliding scale from 503-777-1907; Nov. 1 is \$10.)

Portland Center for the Performing Arts presents *Defending the Caveman*, an insightful play about the ways men and women relate, through Oct. 20 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$43 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Center Stage presents *Cabaret*, a celebrated musical set in Berlin during the rise of the Third Reich, extended through Nov. 11 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$18.50-\$63.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Center Stage presents *The Underpants*, Steve Martin's heartwarming comedy about a sex-deprived wife in pre-World War I Germany who accidentally drops her bloomers in front of the king, through Dec. 2 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$43.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Gender Bending? Try Genre Bending

One of the most exciting developments to come out of last year's otherwise ho-hum theater season was *The Fall of the House*, a live, late-night soap opera following the relationships of five creative-class Portlanders sharing a petri dish of a living room. In this unscripted microcosm of civilization, relationships rose and fell and turned upon one another in some of the most honest and exciting stage work in town. Now this unique serial returns for a second season of four episodes, complete with an original theme song and soundtrack from local bands.

Here's how it works: Story arcs are mapped and rehearsed, but actors perform without a line-for-line script. By showtime, there's a scene-by-scene breakdown that ensures consistency and forward momentum but leaves plenty of room for spontaneity—and occasionally the unexpected zinger. Director/creator **Tamara Carroll** says improvised dialogue generates a palpable presence, delivering an appealing sense of immediacy while also making real and likable characters.

"There were times we worried there was too much drama and not enough comedy, but no matter how serious the situation, there is always humor in watching how people react in real life, which can be inarticulate or inappropriate, and therefore feel very genuine and, well, funny," says Carroll of the first season. "Because we simply drew from our lives and experiences without any deliberate message to convey, we managed to create a very true and nuanced reflection of the life of a Portland 20-something. Art is supposed to mirror life, so I think it had a large appeal to a crowd who has never seen their lives portrayed on stage."



The Fall of the House is an unscripted soap opera that creates "a very true and nuanced reflection of the life of a Portland 20-something."

All but one character returns for the second season, which unties more than one queer knot: Sam (antha) now has a relationship-oriented girlfriend after her terrible heartbreak with closeted evangelical Luanne, and the tensions between friends-or-more Brian and Julie, as well as alternating bi-or-bitter battle between Julie and Olivia, all take a new spin. Who knows, maybe even a spinoff?

The Fall of the House, Season 2 presents new episodes each weekend through Nov. 10. Performances start 10:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays at Theater Theatre, 3430 S.E. Belmont St. Tickets are \$10 from 503-358-8646 or www.actionadventure.org; Thursdays are "pay what you will," and discounted passes are available.

Want to read more? Check out the full interview with Carroll on the *Just Out* blog at www.justout.com.

—Timothy Krause

Portland Metro Performing Arts Center presents *Hot Flashes*, a long-running musical that follows the career of a five-woman band from their 40s to their 70s, through Oct. 21. (Call for times. 9933 SE Pine St. \$20-\$24 from 503-775-8017.)

Portland Opera continues its 2007-08 "Great Women of the Stage" Season with Rossini's *Cinderella* Nov. 2-10 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$41.75-\$147.75 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Story Theater presents the world premiere of *Licking the Plate*, a collection of stories about wanting it bad and getting it good, Nov. 2-10 at Hipbone Studio. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 1847 E Burnside St. \$12 from 503-793-5484; light snacks included.)

Profile Theatre Project opens its John Guare season with *Six Degrees of Separation*, about a black, gay, self-educated and poor man who fools an upper-crust Manhattan family that he's the son of Sidney Poitier, through Nov. 11. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

Slocum House Theatre presents the hilarious hoedown *Nunsense Jamboree* through Nov. 11. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 4 pm Sunday, 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Spiral Stage Theatre Group presents *Love Letters*, which follows a couple's 50-year relationship as told through their correspondence to each other over a lifetime, Oct. 25-Nov. 25 at Kingstad Center in Beaverton. Accompanied by a chef-prepared gourmet meal. (Call for times. 15450 SW Millikan Way. \$59 from 503-715-0233.)

Staged! Portland's Musical Theatre Series presents *The Secret Garden* starring former Miss America Katie Harman Oct. 26-Nov. 4 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$\$\$ from Ticketmaster.)

St. Johns North End Players present Woody Allen's *Play It Again Sam*, about a homely hero who has a thing about Humphrey Bogart, through Nov. 4 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. (Call for times. 7600 N Hereford Ave. \$8-\$10 from 503-286-3679.)

Third Rail Repertory presents *Grace*, a dark comedy about a devout couple who develop a chain of Gospel-themed "Sonrise" motels in Florida, through Oct. 27 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday, 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$16-\$25 from 503-235-1101.)

Theater Uber Alles presents *Cheeseburger Dinner Theatre* featuring Shakespeare Liberation Army's one-act version of *Macbeth* followed by Portland Theatrical Society's cabaret complete

with song, dance, comedy and underwear dancing Nov. 2-18 at Eagles Lodge. (7:30 pm Friday-Sunday, 4904 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$5-\$7 from 503-285-6786.)

Third Rail Repertory Theatre presents a staged reading of *Lady*, a play by Craig Wright (*Six Feet Under*) about three high school buddies' high-tension hunting trip, Oct. 21 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (7 pm, 5340 N Interstate Ave.)

The Tragedies Theater Company presents the second annual *Theatre du Grand Guignol*, the French theater of comedy and horror, through Oct. 31 at Village Ballroom. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday plus 8 pm Oct. 31. 700 NE Dekum St. \$15 from 503-367-2100.)

Well Arts Institute presents a staged reading of *Sharing War's Secrets: Oregon Veterans Redeem Memories from Darkness*, dramatized poetry and dramatic pieces written by veterans of Vietnam and the first Gulf War living with post-traumatic stress disorder, Nov. 4-12 at Artists Repertory Theatre. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$10-\$19 from 503-459-4500.)

White Bird presents Pilobolus Dance Theatre's signature mix of superhuman athleticism and innovative humor Oct. 24 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm, 1037 SW Broadway. \$20-\$50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

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