

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Mars on Life: The Holiday Edition*, Susannah Mars' popular cabaret celebration of the holidays, through Dec. 23. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

Arts Equity presents *Blood Brothers*, a captivating tale about fraternal twins separated at birth only to meet again with tragic consequences, through Dec. 16. (Call for times. 606 Main St., Vancouver, Wash. \$10-\$24 from 360-695-3770.)

Bag&Baggage Productions presents a new adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' classic tale of greed and redemption, Nov. 29-Dec. 2 at Glenn and Viola Walters Cultural Arts Center in Hillsboro. (8 pm plus 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. 527 E Main St. \$17 at the door, \$10-\$15 in advance from 503-615-3485.)

Birth Flight presents dancer Luciana Proaño and guitarist JB Butler in *Chaski*, a multimedia presentation about endurance and trance inspired by the Inca Andean runners, Dec. 6-8 at Conduit Dance. (7 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. #401. \$10-\$15 from 503-977-0620.)

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*, through Nov. 17 at Performance Works NorthWest. (8 pm. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$10 from 503-307-2410.)

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

Do Jump presents *Do Jump for the Holidays* featuring a new tap piece, the return of "At Such a Dizzy Height" (inspired by the paintings of Marc Chagall) and other surprises Dec. 7-30 at Newmark Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$25-\$29.50 from 503-231-1232.)

Fall Guy Theatre opens its inaugural season with *The House of Yes*, a black comedy about twin siblings who re-enact the Kennedy assassination, through Dec. 9 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. No show Nov. 22. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$20 from 503-223-4240.)

Fever Theater revives *Arose (A Creation Story)*, a collaborative performance inspired by Clarice Lispector's *Stream of Life*, Dec. 6-15 at Goldsmith Performance Lab. Free cupcakes! (8 pm Thursday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 30639 SE Bluff Road. \$8-\$15 sliding scale from 503-381-6814.)

Gresham Little Theater presents *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, exploring some of man's hidden fears facing life and of the uniting effect that human suffering can bring, Nov. 30-Dec. 16. (7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 30639 SE Bluff Road. \$8-\$10 from 503-267-2750.)

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.)

Key Productions presents *As Is*—an award-winning play illuminating one man's struggle with AIDS and its impact on him, his friends, his

lovers, his family and the medical community—Dec. 7-22 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (Call for times. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$10-\$20 from 503-781-3464.)

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

Lane Hunter presents the BodyVox dancer's first evening-length work, *The Beginning Is Near*, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at Wonder Ballroom. (7:30 pm plus 2 pm Saturday. 128 NE Russell St. \$20 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Lyndin & Warren present *Vaudeville! Broadway! Hollywood!*—a loving look at a style of entertainment that will bring a smile to your face or a tug at your heart—through Nov. 17 at Village Ballroom. (8 pm. 700 NE Dekum St. \$10-\$20 from 503-674-7578.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents the only West Coast performances of George Balanchine's quintessential *Nutcracker* Dec. 8-24 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$14-\$120 from 503-2-BALLET.)

New Century Players present *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Steve Martin's comedy about Einstein and Picasso debating the contributions of art vs. science, through Nov. 18 at Ainsworth House and Gardens in Oregon City. (Call for times. 19130 Lot Whitcomb Drive. \$10-\$12 from 503-367-2620.)

No Illusions Theatre presents *A Scrooge Mart Christmas Carol*—which asks, "What sort of Christmas Carol would Charles Dickens write if he were alive today?"—Dec. 7-9 at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 8470 SW Oleson Road. \$5-\$20 sliding scale.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents *Beauty and the Beast*, Disney's best-loved musical fairy tale based on the Oscar-winning film, Nov. 30-Dec. 30 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (7 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. 1819 NW Everett St. \$12-\$22 from 503-222-4480.)

Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy, *Titus Andronicus*, documenting the downfall of a patriotic family that has given everything they have to their country, through Nov. 18 at Shoe Box Theater. (7 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$12-\$18 from 971-244-3740.)

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.)

Portland Center Stage presents a new adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' classic tale of greed and redemption, Nov. 25-Dec. 23 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$43.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Ensemble Theatre Company presents the world premiere of its debut production, *Roger and the Cave Monster*—a romantic comedy that explores modern isolation with warmth, humor and a feral child—Nov. 29-Dec. 23 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-

Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$12-\$15 from 503-544-6650.)

Portland State University presents *Glengarry Glen Ross*, David Mamet's Pulitzer-winning dark comedy about the dog-eat-dog world of real estate salesmen, through Nov. 17 at Lincoln Hall. (7:30 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$3.50-\$9.50 from 503-725-3307.)

Profile Theatre Project continues its John Guare season with a staged reading of *Bullfinch's Mythology*, a haunting Civil War drama about a nurse and three soldiers who create a Utopian Transcendental society that is brought to ruin by jealousy and murder, through Nov. 18 at Theater Theatre. (7:30 pm plus 2 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$15 from 503-242-0080.)

Public Playhouse presents *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*, a funny and deeply moving story that brings the ghost of Marley into the spotlight to tell his version of the famous tale, Dec. 7-22 at CoHo Theatre. (7:30 pm Thursday-

Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$14-\$16 from 503-922-0532.)

Slocum House Theatre presents *Tuna Christmas*, in which radio news personalities report on hilarious yuletide activities in the third-smallest town in Texas, Nov. 29-Dec. 16. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 605 Esther St., Vancouver, Wash. \$8-\$10 from 360-696-2427.)

Sowelu Theater presents *Streamers*, a riveting story of young soldiers awaiting their tours of duty in Vietnam and an unflinching look at issues of racism, homophobia and class that perpetuate conflict in our culture, through Dec. 15 at Back Door Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$12-\$15 from 503-730-9066.)

Spring 4th Productions presents *Bubba!*—about pseudo-desperate people seeking the answers to simple questions with the help of an unscrupulous agency—Nov. 29-Dec. 8 at Shoebox Theatre. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday,

2110 SE 10th Ave. \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance from 503-989-5621.)

Stumptown Stages presents *Godspell*, a musical celebration of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, through Dec. 1 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$25-\$27 from 503-381-8686.)

Tears of Joy Theatre presents an artful new take on the beloved classic *Pinocchio* through Nov. 25 at Winningstad Theatre. (11 am Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1111 SW Broadway. \$13-\$16 from 503-248-0557.)

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 through Nov. 18 at Eagles Lodge. (7:30 pm. 4904 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$5-\$7 from 503-285-6786.)

At War with Ourselves

Much has changed in the 30 years since David Rabe's *Streamers* was named Best American Play by the New York Drama Critics, but the issues at the heart of this tense drama are no less relevant in 2007. A now-unpopular war in Iraq wears on. Homophobia continues in the armed forces. And prejudice and discord between races is still found in the streets of Portland.

The difference, says Sowelu Theater artistic director Barry Hunt, is that in the play's 1965 Army barracks, the young recruits preparing for their tour of duty in Vietnam face these hot-button issues in ways that are much more direct and volatile. *Streamers* fields "racism, homophobia, class conflict and the combustible nature of human differences that create war," he explains. "I love the play as a metaphor for our warring tendencies and its ultimate compassion for human nature."

But Hunt's perspective has changed, too. Thirty years ago he performed the play as an actor; now he is the director.

"I wanted to visit it now with younger actors to discover how the ideas and conflicts in the play have changed in the past 30 years," says Hunt. "We are doing it as a period piece, but the sensibilities of the younger artists bring a more modern take to the script. I wanted to learn from them and see the play through their eyes."

Among the cast are local actors Daniel Hill, Aundre Barnes, Nasir Najieb, Garfield Wedderburn, Kenneth Dembo and David Poland.

"I love this cast for their openhearted willingness to embody these conflicts. This alone speaks of the differences between today and 30 years past. They are not afraid and somehow nav-



Streamers offers an unflinching look at issues of racism, homophobia and class that perpetuate conflict in our culture.

igate these hot topics with an ease that would not have been possible 30 years ago, therefore reflecting a more subtle and interesting relationship to the issues."

Streamers plays through Dec. 15 at Back Door Theatre, 4319 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Performances are at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 4 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$12-\$15 from 503-730-9066.

—Timothy Krause

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