on|stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents the Portland premiere of *The Clean House*, in which four women discover that tidiness has its limitations, Jan. 25-March 2. *(Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. $20-$47 from 503-241-1278.)*

Arts Equity presents *Exit the King*, theater of the absurd about a king who has ruled his country for 400 years and refuses to give up power despite the certainty of his impending death, through Feb. 16. *(Call for times. 606 Main St., Vancouver, Wash. $10-$24 from 360-695-3770.)*

Center for Self-Enhancement presents a free performance of *Tangoing with Tornadoes*, a choreopoem that uses poetry, live music and interpretive modern dance to untangle the secret web of how domestic violence affects women, through Jan. 27. *(7 pm Friday and Saturday, 3 pm Sunday. 3920 N Kerby Ave. RSVP to 503-249-1721, ext. 259.)*

CoHo Productions presents the U.S. premiere of *Tales of Ordinary Madness*, which captures the contemporary life of Prague 30-somethings wallowing in a sort of narcissistic isolation and nostalgic loneliness, through Feb. 23. *(8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. $20-$23 from 503-220-2646.)*

Curious Productions presents *The Neutrino Project*—a "theatrical movie experience" in which three casts, three crews and three fast runners perform, shoot, edit, score and project a completely improvised movie in the time it takes for the audience to watch it—through Feb. 22 at Hollywood Theatre. *(9:30 pm Friday. 4122 NE Sandy Blvd. $10 from 503-432-8633.)*

Defunkt Theatre presents *The Communist Dracula Pageant*, a seriocomic tale in which Nikolae and Elena Ceausescu are put on trial for genocide—presided over by master of ceremonies Vlad Tepes, the original Dracula—through Feb. 16 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.")*

Fever Theater presents *Believers*, a musical about cults, through Feb. 2. *(8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 1120 SE Main St. #102. $10-$20 sliding scale from 503-381-6814; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")*

FoxWell Productions presents *Random Acts of Comedy*—a razor-sharp, hilarious exploration of miscommunication between the sexes—Jan. 24-27 at The Kingstad Center in Beaverton. *(8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 15450 SW Millikan Way. $12-$17 from 503-626-6338.)*

Keller Auditorium presents eight farewell performances of Riverdance—the thunderous celebration of Irish music, song and dance that has tapped its way onto the world stage—Jan. 22-27. *(Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. $23-$68 from box office or Ticketmaster.)*

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It*, in which wild laughter abounds when an actor set to perform the beloved comedy heads off to join professional wrestling, leaving only six actors to perform 33 roles, through Feb. 17. *(Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. $23-$25 from 503-635-3901.)*

Miracle Theatre presents *Zapatista*, a bilingual production that explores the myth of Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos, who proves that the spoken word is a powerful implement for social change, through Jan. 19. *(8 pm. 525 SE Stark St. $15-$20 from 503-236-7253.)*

Miracle Theatre presents a Spanish-language production of gay playwright Federico García Lorca's *Bodas de Sangre*, in which a young woman yearns for her forbidden lover and an escape from the constraints of her impending marriage, Feb. 1-23. *(7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. $15-$20 from 503-236-7253.)*

Northwest Children's Theater presents *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, in which the famous New Hampshire statesman defends a 19th century farmer who is tricked into selling his soul to the devil, Feb. 1-24 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. *(7 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. 1819 NW Everett St. $10-$20 from 503-222-4480.)*

Oregon Children's Theatre presents *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, a popular tale about a confident individual who finds constant adventures with her friends, through Jan. 20 at Keller Auditorium. *(2 pm. 222 SW Clay St. $13-$24 from 503-228-9571.)*

Portland Center Stage presents *The Beard of Avon*, a comedy that asks whether a simple bumpkin like William Shakespeare could possibly have had the global knowledge to write as prolifically and artfully as he's purported to, Jan. 19-March 8 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. *(Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. $16.50-$61.50 from 503-445-3700.)*

The Winsome Griffles perform Jan. 24 in Eugene and Jan. 31 in Portland.

Portland Center Stage presents *Twelfth Night*, William Shakespeare's deliciously complicated cross-dressing comedy about deception, disguise and star-crossed love, Jan. 25-March 9 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. *(Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. $16.50-$61.50 from 503-445-3700.)*

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art presents Argentine choreographer Diana Szeinblum's *Alaska*, a dance/theater work exploring the relationships between four characters desperately trying to reveal their "interior space" through physical expression, Jan. 29 and 30 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. *(8 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. $20-$25 from www.pica.org.)*

Portland State University presents *Savage in Limbo*, in which five long-lost Catholic school friends meet unexpectedly in a Bronx bar, through Jan. 19 at Lincoln Hall. *(7:30 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. $3-$5 from 503-725-3307.)*

Profile Theatre Project continues its John Guare season with the Portland premiere of *A Few Stout Individuals*, which re-envisions a meeting between a now penniless and mentally deteriorating Ulysses S. Grant and his memoir writer, Samuel Clemens, through Feb. 17 at Theater Theatre. *(Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. $10-$28 from 503-242-0080.)*

Profile Theatre Project continues its John Guare season with a staged reading of *Bosoms and Neglect*, in which two psychiatric patients begin an impassioned affair when their doctor goes on vacation, Jan. 28-Feb. 3 at Theater Theatre. *(Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. $10-$15 from 503-242-0080.)*

Theatre Vertigo presents *Where's My Money?*—a sardonic and caustic play about infidelity, debt, fame and paranormal activity that vivisects the institution of marriage—through Feb. 9 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 presents the Tony-nominated *Shining City*, a haunting story of guilt, loss and missed connections, through Feb. 2 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. *(8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. $16-$25 from 503-235-1101.)*

White Bird presents world-acclaimed Argentine dance company Estampas Porteñas in *Tango Fire* Jan. 23 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. *(7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. $20-$55 from box office or Ticketmaster.)*

White Bird presents an evening of deeply passionate work by one of the region's best choreographers, Josie Moseley Dance, Jan. 24-26 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. *(8 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. $16-$26 from box office or Ticketmaster.)*

From Shy to Shining

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts." Shakespeare's famous pastoral moral comes to life—albeit with perhaps some unintended slapstick—as bit player William turns romantic lead in ***The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It***, a comedy by Don Nigro playing through Feb. 17 at Lake Oswego's Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 S. State St.

Shakespeare's life-is-art philosophy resonates with **Zachary Koval**, the gay actor who plays the role of William. "Whether the audience is there, or in fact invisible, makes little difference," he says. "We go through our lives transforming from one part to another, always moving forward, never back—sometimes even in spite of ourselves. There is a spark of potential in each of us. A potential that may be unreachable, a carrot on a stick luring us forward, but that doesn't mean we should stop reaching."

Koval, 24, already has demonstrated great potential of his own. Professionally, he's gone from playing the happy-go-lucky bear Baloo in a touring production of *The Jungle Book* for Missoula Children's Theatre to the mother-murdering title role of *Orestes* for Classical Greek Theatre of Oregon. Offstage, he's traversed the path from help line volunteer to soccer referee, from bar-back and caterer to video clerk, nanny and jeans specialist at The Gap.

A similar forward momentum transforms his tentative character into the brash, romantic leading man.

REBECCA J. BECKER

From left, Keith Scales, Sarah Rea and Zachary Koval star in *The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It.*

"In the show, the 'actors' are known by the name of the character they normally play," explains Koval. "William-the-actor is young and innocent in experience. He is quiet and often falls asleep, having no other way of dealing with his stress and nerves. William-the-character is found in one short scene towards the end of *As You Like It*. A pretty pathetic character—though strangely the playwright's namesake—who barely gets in 10 brief lines before being chased off by the clown. Despite his brief experience in this tiny role, William-the-actor gets drafted into duty to play lead role of Orlando. Quite the opposite of timid William. A possible chance to re-create himself and express hidden talents."

Tickets are $23-$25 from 503-635-3901 or www.lakewood-center.org.

—Timothy Krause

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