

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *The Rabbit Hole*, a Pulitzer-winning drama that uses a velvet scalpel to dissect the most personal of domestic tragedies—the death of a child, through March 23. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

Blue Door Productions presents sketch troupe *The 3rd Floor in That's Entertainment? A History of Comedy* through March 22 at Miracle Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 525 SE Stark St. \$12 from 503-627-9847.)

Cacophony Productions presents *The Bible: The Complete Word of God*, in which three hilarious young men take us on an irreverent romp through the sacred text, through March 29 at Firehouse Theater. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 1436 SW Montgomery St. \$7-\$12 from 503-310-0771.)

Cirque du Soleil presents *Corteo*, about a festive funeral imagined by a clown to illustrate the portion of humanity that is within each of us, through April 6 under the blue and yellow Grand Chapiteau. (Call for times. Southwest Moody Avenue south of the Marquam Bridge. \$35-\$85 from 800-678-5440.)

Clark College's Decker Theatre in Vancouver, Wash., presents *The Vagina Monologues*, featuring several queer performers and a vendor fair prior to the show, through March 8. (7 pm. 1933 Fort Vancouver Way. \$7.)

Curious Productions presents *Swingers: Live Improvised Comedy* March 15-April 5 at Theater Theatre. (10:30 pm Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10 from 503-432-8633.)

Gresham Little Theatre presents *Peter Pan*, JM Barrie's story of a boy who wouldn't grow up, through March 15. (Call for times.

30639 SE Bluff Road. \$8-\$10 from 503-267-2750.)

Integrity Productions presents *Scotland Road*, about a woman found floating on an iceberg in the middle of the North Atlantic who is interrogated about her connection to the Titanic, through April 5 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-286-3456; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Lakewood Theatre Company presents *The Full Monty*, gay playwright Terrence McNally's musical adaptation of the popular film about unemployed steelworkers who form an unlikely striptease troupe, through April 13. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham presents *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, an unfinished whodunit by Charles Dickens in which the actors don't know the ending because only the audience can solve the case, through March 9. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 26000 SE Stark St. \$10-\$15 from 503-491-7145.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents *Go, Dog. Go!*—a rollicking free-for-all musical world of crooning canines that dance and drive—March 22-April 6 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$10-\$20 from 503-222-4480.)

Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents *An Afternoon of One Acts* featuring Samuel Beckett's "Krapp's Last Tape" and Eugene O'Neill's "The Sniper" March 9-30 at Shoebox Theater. (2 pm Sunday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$5 from 971-244-3740.)

PassinArt: A Theatre Company presents *The*

Diva Daughters DuPre, a thought-provoking dramatic comedy about three African-American sisters who reunite 10 years after their parents' death, March 21-April 13 at Imago Theatre. (7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 3 pm Saturday and Sunday. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$20 from www.passinart.org.)

Portland Center for the Performing Arts presents *Defending the Caveman*, a hilariously insightful play about the ways that men and women relate, through March 8 at Winningstad Theatre. (8 pm Friday, 5 and 8 pm Saturday. 1111 SW Broadway. \$43 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

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, through March 8 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$61.50 from 503-445-3700.)

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

Portland Center Stage presents *A Feminine Ending*, an eye-opening exploration of ambition, identity and actualization in Generation XX, through March 23 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$61.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Opera presents gay composer Benjamin Britten's *Albert Herring* March 14-30 at the intimate Hampton Opera Center. (Call

OWEN CAREY



Portland Center Stage presents *The Beard of Avon* through March 8.

for times. 211 SE Caruthers St. \$75 from 503-241-1802.)

Portland Opera's Broadway Across America presents *Twelve Angry Men* starring Richard Thomas (*The Waltons*) March 11-16 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$23-\$60 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Story Theater presents *On Sale Now!*, Rick Huddle's one-man show of everyday proportions and monumental worth, through March 15 at Hipbone Studios. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 1847 E Burnside St. #104. \$12 from 503-720-0397.)

Profile Theatre Project continues its John Guare season with *Landscape of the Body*, an absurdist drama about the American dream gone awry, through April 6 at

Theater Theatre. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

Public Playhouse presents *Moonlight and Magnolias*, a fast-paced farce about three icons from the film industry desperately attempting to save *Gone with the Wind*, through March 15 at CoHo Theatre. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$14-\$16 from 503-922-0532.)

Sharon Knorr Productions presents *Why Can't I Marry the Cute Beatle*, a one-woman show about life and death, love and loneliness, growing older and finding the joke in it all, through March 29 at West End Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 3 pm March 9 and 16. 1220 SW Taylor St. \$18-\$22 from 503-699-3309.)

Sowelu Theater presents *Star of Hope*, a hilarious comedy of manners set in the Midwest, March 14-April 5 at Back Door Theater. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$12-\$18 from 503-730-9066.)

Stumptown Stages presents *Dreamgirls*, a Tony-winning musical that follows the career of three women from backup singers to headliners in the '60s, through April 5 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$25-\$27 from 503-381-8686.)

Triangle Productions presents the world premiere of *Tonya & Nancy: The Rock Opera*, Portland's own *Blades of Glory* about the triumphs, scandals and most recent endeavors of everybody's favorite hometown girl, through March 8 at World Trade Center Auditorium. (Call for times. 121 SW Salmon St. \$20-\$25 from 503-239-5919.)

Triangle Productions presents the Northwest premiere of *The J.A.P. Show*, in which three Jewish female comics salute the trailblazing and treasured pioneers of comedy with their own zany stories and hilarious standup, March 20-April 11 at CoHo Theatre. (Call for times. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$19-\$23 from 503-239-5919.)

Dreamgirls Will Never Leave You

After its Broadway opening in 1981, the Motown musical *Dreamgirls* soon chalked up not only six Tony Awards, but also a Grammy-winning soundtrack and, 15 years later, a movie that earned two Oscars. Now it's back in the spotlight at Stumptown Stages. The truth, it seems, is that there is an enduring appeal about the rocky road to fame: here, a mod-squad take on the chorus girl's big break leads Deena, Effie and Lorrell—known as the Dreams—from backup singers to headliners while trying to maintain the loyalty and love of those who helped them get there.

It's that pure ambition of making it big that resonates with lesbian performer Lava Alapai, a freelance photographer by day who plays middle-child peacekeeper Lorrell Robinson—a role based loosely on Mary Wilson of the Supremes. But neither Alapai nor any one of the Supremes is alone in the fame game. Look at the journeys of many on the popular

television show *American Idol*, she says. "It's interesting how they go from who they are to who the industry wants them to be as artists," she explains. "We want so much to be 'successful' that sometimes we sell out, so to speak. Sometimes we lose sight of why we started in this business, for sure. This is the same journey the Dreams go on in this play."

And what a journey it is, even with the show-stopping number "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going," a song that sent onetime *Idol* recruit and *Dreamgirls* movie star Jennifer Hudson climbing the *Billboard* music charts. Alapai, on the other hand, admits her fave might be the disco version of "One Night Only." Singing with her on stage are seasoned pros Julianne Johnson and Joann Coleman under the direction of Drammy Award winner Kirk Mouser. "I don't even know how I have been so blessed to play with them," says Alapai. "There are a lot of new faces in this show, and Kirk has been so much fun to work with. These women's voices will

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From left, Lava Alapai, Julianne Johnson and Joann Coleman travel the rocky road to fame in the Motown musical *Dreamgirls*.

blow you away!"

Dreamgirls plays 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through April 5 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Tickets are \$25-\$27 from 503-381-8686 or www.stumptownstages.com.

—Timothy Krause

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