

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. 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.)

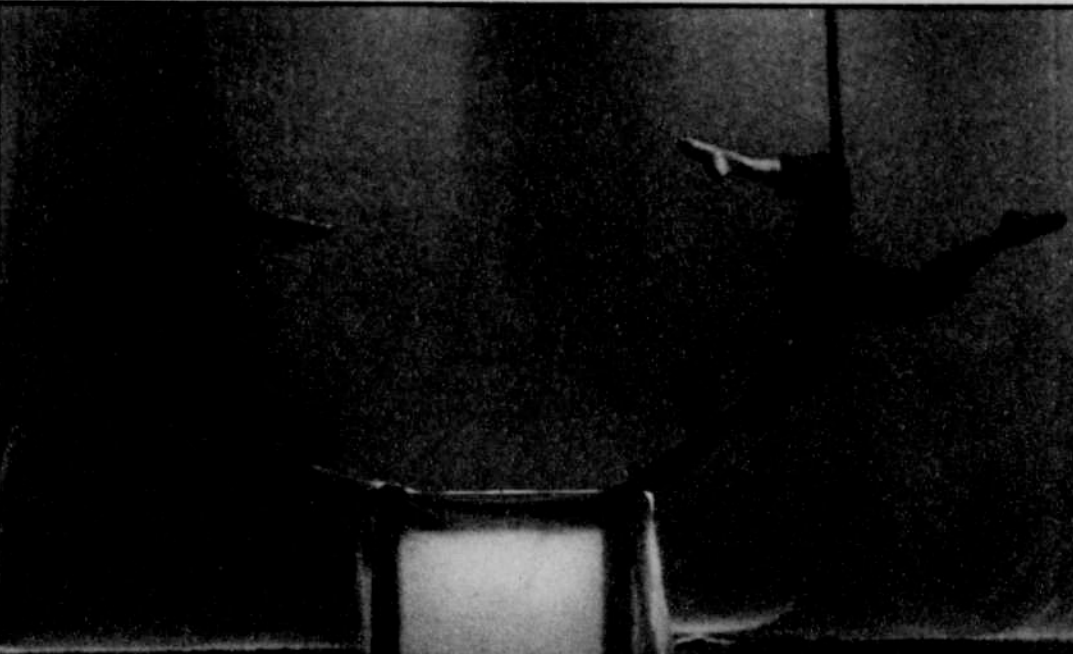
Cirque du Soleil presents *Corteo*, about a festive funeral imagined by a clown to illustrate the portion of humanity that is within each of us, extended through April 13 under the blue and yellow Grand Chapiteau. (Call for times. Southwest Moody Avenue south of the Marquam Bridge. \$35-\$85 from 800-678-5440.)

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

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.)

Miracle Theatre presents *Oyá: Call the Storm*, a bilingual dance theater production



White Bird presents the West Coast debut of Brenda Angiel Aerial Dance Company April 3-5.

about a feminine warrior of the Afro-Cuban Yoruba tradition who controls destructive forces of nature, April 4-26. (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 *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.)

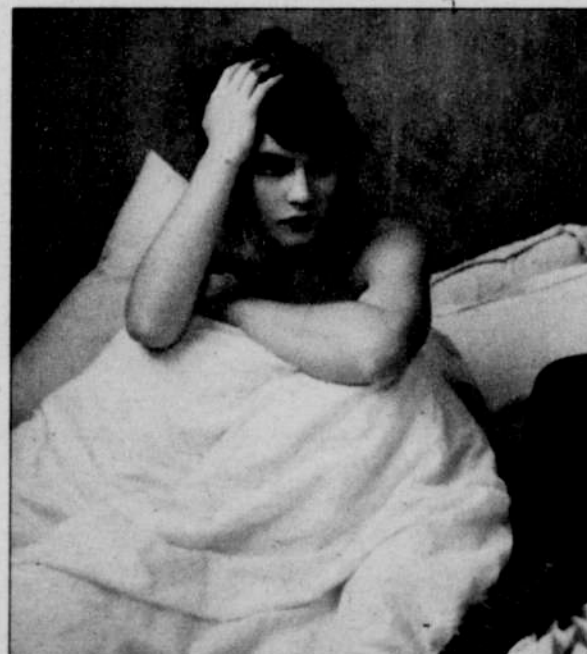
Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents *An Afternoon of One Acts* featuring Samuel Beckett's "Krapp's Last Tape" and Eugene O'Neill's "The Sniper" through March 30 at Shoebox Theater. (2 pm Sunday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$5 from 971-244-3740.)

PassinArt: A Theatre Company presents *The Diva Daughters DuPree*, a thought-provoking dramatic comedy about three African-American sisters who reunite 10 years after their parents' death, through 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.)

Penplay presents *Boxes*, a unique look at a young person rebelling against the gender identities placed upon us by society, and *Escaping Chinatown*, about a young woman who challenges her parents' ethnic boundaries and racial preconceptions, March 28 and 29 at Conduit. (8 pm. 918 SW Yamhill St. #401. \$8.)

Portland Center for the Performing Arts presents *Too Much Coffee Man Opera: The Refill*, the world's first opera based on a comic book, about an idealistic hero's quest to win the affections of a barista, April 4-20 at Brunish Hall. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$23.75-\$28.75 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

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.)



Golden Globe nominee Kaki King (*Into the Wild*) performs March 22.

BRUCE FEELEY

\$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

Sally Tomato presents *Toy Room*, a rock opera that chronicles the enigmatic performance artist's chaotic life story, from an imaginative youth to an abusive marriage, April 4-6 at Wonder Ballroom. Proceeds benefit Portland Women's Crisis Line. (7 and 9 pm Friday and Saturday, 1 pm Sunday. 128 NE Russell St. \$19 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

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. 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, through April 5 at Back Door Theater. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 4 pm Sunday. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$12-\$18 from 503-730-9066.)

Staged presents the epic Tony-winning musical *Les Misérables* with a cast of local students between 9 and 20 years old March 28-April 6 at World Trade Center Theatre. (Call for times. 121 SW Salmon St. \$21-\$25 from 971-322-5723.)

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 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, through April 12 at CoHo Theatre. (Call for times. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$18-\$23 from 503-239-5919.)

White Bird presents a thrilling collaboration between Urban Bush Women and Compagnie Jant-Bi focusing on differing cultural landscapes and shared heritage April 2 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$20-\$50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

White Bird presents the West Coast debut of gravity-defying Brenda Angiel Aerial Dance Company from Buenos Aires, Argentina, in *Air Condition* April 3-5 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. (8 pm. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$16-\$26 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

'If I Embarrass You, Tell Your Friends'

Comedian Belle Barth also used to say, "I don't mean to be vulgar, but it's profitable."

Likewise, Portland theater producer **Don Horn** knows that what's a little risqué can be parlayed into a big niche. An original founder of one of the oldest gay-themed theaters on the West Coast, Horn has more recently turned Triangle Productions onto off-Broadway shows that have featured bitches who sing, drag queen beauty contestants, a rock 'n' roll tranny and a squeaky-clean boy band from the days of Ed Sullivan.

Even now as Triangle closes a successful new rock biopera about the troubled life of former Olympic ice skater Tonya Harding, Horn is opening the Northwest premiere of *The Jewish American Princesses of Comedy Show*. Created by **Cory Kahaney** (NBC's *Last Comic Standing*), *The J.A.P. Show's* Stumptown cast features local personalities **Francine Raften** and **Wendy Westerville**. Through personal stories, standup comedy and vintage footage, these funny girls deliver a hilarious homage to "dirty" Jewish women comics such as Barth, Pearl Williams, Jean Carroll, Betty Walker and Totie Fields—women who through their club acts and adult party records exploded the myth of the undersexed, overshopped housewife of the 1950s.

Another niche, perhaps, but one that Kahaney finds tied to the queer community.

"Jewish women have always felt different and gawky and freaky growing up, and I think they share that with a lot of gay men," suggests Kahaney in a video interview on



Wendy Westerville (left) and Francine Raften star in *The Jewish American Princesses of Comedy Show*.

the show's Web site. "You like theater; we like theater. You like musicals; we like musicals. We had Barbra Streisand; you wanted Barbra Streisand."

Speaking with New York Press' Leonard Jacob during the show's original run at New York City's Actors Temple ("a synagogue by day, a Hell's Kitchen theatrical hot spot by night"), Kahaney also notes how "Bette Midler took tons of Belle Barth's jokes for her act, then drag queens took them, then cross-dressers. The common theme is oppression—having your sexuality pushed down."

The J.A.P. Show plays through April 12 at CoHo Theater, 2257 N.W. Raleigh St. Tickets are \$18-\$23 from 503-239-5919 or www.tripro.org.

—Timothy Krause

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