

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents gay playwright Tennessee Williams' timeless Pulitzer-winning masterpiece *A Streetcar Named Desire* through May 18. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

Artists Repertory Theatre presents gay playwright Alan Bennett's Tony Award winner *The History Boys*, which uses staff room rivalry and the anarchy of adolescence to provoke insistent questions about history and how you teach it, through June 8. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

BodyVox presents the world premiere of *Horizontal Leanings*, a blend of energized dance, unexpected storytelling, original cinema and human comedy, including a performance by Third Angle New Music Ensemble, through May 4 at Newmark Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$12-\$40 from 503-229-0627.)

CoHo Productions and Cygnet Productions present the one-woman show *9 Parts of Desire*, a conversation across time and space among women of Iraqi heritage, May 9-June 14. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm

Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$20-\$23 from 503-220-2646.)

Defunkt Theatre presents playwright and Czech President Vaclav Havel's *The Garden Party*, a fast-paced farce in which language is a weapon for making it to the top of a bureaucratic nightmare, through May 31 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.")

Do Jump revives *iEntusiasmo!*—the true story of Gaviotas, a Colombian village that is an exemplar of sustainable culture—May 17-31 at Newmark Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$25-\$35 from 503-231-1232.)

Gresham Little Theater presents *Fools*, Neil Simon's silly play about a Ukrainian village cursed by stupidity but thriving, through May 18. (7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 30639 SE Bluff Road. \$8-\$10 from 503-267-2750.)

Insight Out Theatre Collective presents *For Give*, inspired by William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, in which several women find themselves face to face with their

personal demons in the midst of a powerful storm, through May 17 at Mississippi Ballroom. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm May 17. 833 N Shaver St. \$10-\$15 from 503-493-8070.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents Tony Award winner *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, a murder mystery musical based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel in which the audience will decide whodunit, through June 8. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$23-\$25 from 503-635-3901.)

Live on Stage presents the musical *The Wild Party*, a dark tale of lust and passion about a pair of jealous lovers throwing the party to end all parties, through May 31 at World Trade Center Theatre. (8 pm Friday and Saturday. 121 SW Salmon St. \$30 at the door, \$27 in advance from 503-280-LIVE.)

Miracle Theatre presents the world premiere of *The Labyrinth of Desire*, a who's who comedy of romantic intrigue that explores the delightful and essential mystery of love, May 9-31. (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

Sleeping Beauty, a musical retelling of the classic fairy tale about an enchanted princess waiting for a handsome prince to save her with a kiss, through May 25 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$10-\$20 from 503-222-4480.)

Pendulum Aerial Dance Theatre presents *Dawn*, inspired by the athleticism and idealism of its pre-professional youth company, the Pendulum Flyers, whose ambitions and dreams are focused toward the future, May 3 and 4 at French-American International School. (7:30 pm. 8600 NW Johnson Ave. \$15-\$25 from www.pendulumdance-theatre.org.)

Performance Works NorthWest presents *Cabaret Boris & Natasha*, a long-running arts salon of theater, dance and music featuring gender-bending video installations, May 3 and 4. (8 pm. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$12-\$15 sliding scale.)

Performance Works NorthWest presents choreographer Faith Hunt Levine's *Translations* May 8-17. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$15 sliding scale.)

Portland Center Stage presents the world

premiere of *Sometimes a Great Notion*, based on Oregon author Ken Kesey's wild and woolly portrait of an Oregon coastal logging community, extended through May 10 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 gay playwright Douglas Carter Beane's *The Little Dog Laughed*, a social satire about a closeted young movie actor who wants to tell the world about his affair with a rent boy, through June 15 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$16.50-\$43.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Opera concludes its 2007-08 "Great Women of the Stage" Season with Verdi's *Aida* May 9-17 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$41.75-\$147.75 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Profile Theatre Project concludes its John Guare season with *The House of Blue Leaves*, an antic farce that posits that the family home and the mental institution are more alike than we might think, May 14-June 15 at Theater Theatre. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

St. Johns North End Players presents *Robin Hood Caper*, a hilarious modern slant on an old plot about four old people who meet to report on their good works in the "Charities Anonymous Club," May 9-18 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 7600 N Hereford Ave. \$8-\$10 from 503-286-3679.)

Theatre Uber Alles presents *Cheeseburger Dinner Theatre's Pinocchio Exposed! The Blue Fairy Tells All!*—which adds in some karaoke and queer gender-bending to make up a new tale of a magical piece of wood learning the difference between good and bad—through May 18 at East Portland Eagles Lodge. Followed by Portland Theatrical Society's cabaret with song, dance, comedy and underwear dancing. (7:30 pm Friday-Sunday. 4904 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$5-\$7 from 503-285-6786.)

Theatre Vertigo presents *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, Pulitzer Prize winner Paula Vogel's "puppet play with actors" about a troubled family of five careening near the edge of oblivion, through May 17 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 audacious comedy *Nobody Here but Us Chickens*, three short plays that look at disabilities and our perceptions with them, through May 24 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 *4x4: The Ballet Project*, a special performance of contemporary works by Oregon Ballet Theatre, Eugene Ballet Company, Pacific Northwest Ballet and San Francisco Ballet, May 8 and 9 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$20-\$62 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

A Fairy in Search of Tail

What caught my eye about the press release from Theatre Uber Alles for *Pinocchio Exposed! The Blue Fairy Tells All!* was its rating: "N for naughty." The original story, of course, concerns a wooden marionette that a fairy brings to life. The puppet, however, turns out to be a bit of a bad boy who must learn a few life lessons to remain alive. Written by Timothy Scarrott and directed by Allison May, this new version includes more than a bit of gender-bending mischief with Lee "Splendor" Kyle, a drag performance artist, and Cody Rowan, a trans actor playing Pinocchio, who knows firsthand what it takes to become a boy.

Timothy Krause: How does this production play with the traditional?

Cody Rowan: It subverts, twists and throws out the window all you think you already knew about the story without making it unrecognizable. It does a good job of blending the things we secretly love, and maybe more overtly hate, about our childhood memories of Disney movies; the often darker—and more interesting—original version; some good old social commentary; and, of course, some queers to liven it up.... It's in-your-face in a hilarious, fun way, without reverting to a lot of obvious and tired gay jokes or really making a big deal about it.



Trans actor Cody Rowan plays the title role in *Pinocchio Exposed! The Blue Fairy Tells All!*

TK: And Pinocchio?

CR: In some ways, my character is the most traditional of all the characters in the show—although I would say that the "traditional-ness" of it extends only as far as a pair of pleated lederhosen and the loose portrayal of a clueless and dense puppet/child-thing can take it. I get the opportunity to play with gender, and discussions of what makes a "real boy," as well as try my hand at burlesque and other "deviancies" that the original would not have entertained.

TK: Rated "N for naughty"? Do tell!

CR: Well, I can say that during Pinocchio's strip number—uh, just kidding. Without giving anything away, you should definitely expect enough general debauchery that's both tasteful enough not to mortally offend my parents—I don't think—and yet fun enough and hot enough that you'll be laughing your ass off and shamelessly objectifying all those hot fairy tale mutations that are my fellow cast members.

Theatre Uber Alles presents *Pinocchio Exposed!* (including cabaret from Portlandian Theatrical Society) 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday at East Portland Eagles Lodge, 4904 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd. Closes May 18. Tickets are \$5-\$7 from 503-285-6786.

—Timothy Krause

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