

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.)

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, through 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.)

Hand2Mouth Theatre presents *From a Dream to a Dream*, which explores the "in between" time when we are neither awake nor asleep, May 29-June 8 at Artists Repertory Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1515 SW Morrison St. \$12-\$18 sliding scale from Brown Paper Tickets; May 29 is "pay what you can.")

Imago Theatre presents the premiere of *The Dinner*, in which unexpected guests crash a party for an unnamed "famous writer," May 22-June 14. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$18-\$22 from TicketsWest.)

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 Friday, 2 and 8 pm Saturday. 833 N Shaver St. \$10-\$15 from 503-493-8070.)

Integrity Productions presents *Eloise & Ray*, a lyrical, bittersweet tale about a 16-year-old girl who figures out who she is and where she stands in the scheme of things, May 29-June 28 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 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, through May 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.)

Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents *Much Ado About Nothing*, William Shakespeare's comedic masterpiece on the war between men and women, May 23-June 16 at Shoe Box Theater. (7 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$12-\$18 from 971-244-3740.)



Students conspire to stump their teacher with a bit of film trivia in *The History Boys* through June 8 at Artists Rep.

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

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 Center Stage presents Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner Doubt, a provocative play about a by-the-book nun

accusing a laid-back priest of inappropriate behavior toward a student, May 19-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* through May 17 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$41.75-\$147.75 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Opera's Broadway Across America presents *High School Musical*, a *Romeo and Juliet* comedy in which peers exert more pressure than parents, May 27-June 1 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$23-\$68 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland State University presents Tony Award winner *Dancing at Lughnasa*, in which five unmarried Irish sisters

reacquaint themselves with their priest brother returning home from 25 years as a missionary in Africa, May 23-31 at Lincoln Hall. (7:30 pm Wednesday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$3.50-\$9.50 from 503-725-3307; Wednesday is "Pay What You CAN Affair" benefiting Oregon Food Bank.)

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, through 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," through May 18 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 7600 N Hereford Ave. \$8-\$10 from 503-286-3679.)

Stumptown Stages presents *The Last Five Years*, a compelling musical about a nice Jewish boy and a good Irish Catholic girl who fall in love, get married and grow apart, May 30-June 28 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$25-\$27 from 503-381-8686.)

Theatre Uber Alles presents Cheeseburger Dinner Theatre's *Pinnocchio 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. 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. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870.)

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.)

Before Green Was Cool

More than 30 years ago, visionary Paolo Lugari founded a village called Gaviotas in the harsh savannahs (called llanos) of eastern Colombia. Today, the 200-person community still swims against the current by reaching for a lifestyle that is economically, agriculturally and artistically sustainable—a lifestyle they have made great strides toward achieving.

Several years ago, Do Jump's artistic director, Robin Lane, read journalist Alan Weisman's book *Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World* and was inspired by how Lugari had turned his vision into reality.

Lane says: "It's close to my heart, how people can live together in a different way and treat the environment and each other with respect. It's the opposite of what's going on in our larger culture today."

In response, Lane created a production called *iEntusiasmo!* as a salute to Gaviotas. The show, which premiered in 2004, is taking to the stage at Newmark Theatre from May 17 to 31 in a freshly polished form. (Tickets are \$25-35 from 503-231-1232.)

"It has a lot of new stuff in it; it's really much better," says Lane, who is a lesbian.

The show features the trademark acrobatics and aerial feats that typically

characterize Do Jump performances, in addition to a narrative storyline that marks a relatively new approach for the 31-year-old company.

Another highlight of the program is the music, which combines originals by lesbian composer (and longtime Do Jump collaborator) Joan Szymko with traditional Colombian music from the llanos region by the ensemble Los Llaneros. "The music from that region is fantastic," Lane says.

The subtitle of *iEntusiasmo!* is *A Show About Hope* because the story of Gaviotas is a reminder that even though it can be easy to become discouraged when one's values are not reflected in the dominant culture, sometimes it is still possible to achieve the seemingly impossible.

Now more than ever, that's an important lesson. As Lane points out, when Lugari founded Gaviotas, the average person had never heard of global warming.

Because inspiration doesn't go far without action, the printed program for *iEntusiasmo!* lists organizations that can help audience members take steps toward building a sustainable community here at home—groups such as show co-sponsors Coalition for a Livable Future, Oregon Natural Step Network and Portland Office of Sustainable Development.

—Rebecca Ragain

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