

# on stage

**Agnieszka Laska Dancers** presents *The Terror That Is Named the Flight of Time* June 19-21 at Imago Theatre. (7:30 pm. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$15-\$25 from 503-715-1866.)

**Bouand DanceCompany** presents the innovative new works of three choreographers June 27 and 28 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. (7:30 pm Friday, 2 and 7:30 pm Saturday. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$16.50-\$20 from 503-725-3307.)

**Broadway Rose Theatre Company** presents *Les Misérables*, in which relentless policeman Javert pursues escaped convict Jean Valjean over decades through the turmoil of revolutionary France, June 27-July 20 at Deb Fennell Auditorium in Tigard. (Call for times. 9000 SW Durham Road. \$20-\$30 from 503-620-5262.)

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

**CoHo Productions** presents *24 Hour Plays*—in which 30 actors and four writers are locked in CoHo Theatre for 24 hours to cast, direct and perform four original one-act plays—June 29. (8 pm. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$20 from 503-220-2646.)

**Fever Theater** presents *New Believers*, a look at the philosophy of belief, the ethics of belief and the different kinds of relationships that humans have with belief, through July 5 at The Casket. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 403 NW Fifth Ave. \$10-\$15 sliding scale from 503-381-6814; Thursdays are "pay what you can.")

**Hand2Mouth Theatre** presents *Risk/Re-ward*—a performance incubator that invites several genre-bending performers, dancers,

theater types and music innovators (including queer musician Atole) to the stage—June 27 and 28 at Someday Lounge. (7 pm-midnight. 125 NW Fifth Ave. \$11 at the door, \$9 in advance from 503-235-5284.)

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

**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, through 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.")

**Jewish Theatre Collaborative** premieres its first season with a staged reading of *Israel @ 60 Onstage!*—using humor and drama to expose audiences to a complex tapestry of modern Israeli experience—June 24-July 15 at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall. (7 pm Tuesday. 1620 SW Park Ave. \$8 donation from 503-810-5408.)

**Northwest Classical Theatre Company** presents *Much Ado About Nothing*, William Shakespeare's comedic masterpiece on the war between men and women, through June 15 at Shoe Box Theater. (7 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$12-\$18 from 971-244-3740.)

**Portland Actors Ensemble** presents the first of its two Shakespeare in the Park productions, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, June 26-July 19 in Washington Park. (For times and directions visit [www.portlandactors.org](http://www.portlandactors.org).)

**Portland Center Stage** presents gay playwright Douglas Carter Beane's *The Little Dog Laughed*, a social satire about a closeted



Integrity Productions stages *Eloise & Ray* through June 28.

young movie actor who wants to tell the world about his affair with a rent boy, extended through June 29 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, 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's Broadway Across**

**America** presents *Avenue Q*—a Tony-winning musical about real life in New York City, as told by a cast of people and puppets—June 24-29 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$23-\$63 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, through June 15 at Theater Theatre. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

**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, through 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.)

**Triangle Productions** revives *The J.A.P. Show*, in which two Jewish female comics salute the trailblazing and treasured pioneers of comedy with their own zany stories and hilarious standup, June 19-July 19 at CoHo Theatre. (Call for times. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$18-\$23 from 503-239-5919.)

## Les Mis Comes to Tigard

It is a chance some actors dream about: After ducking in and out of Broadway and touring productions of *Les Misérables* for the past 10 years, actor/director Rob Hunt now gets to direct his very own production, his way.

And he's doing it in Tigard, with Broadway Rose Theatre Company.

"I would certainly hope they're not intimidated by me," Hunt quips by phone from New York. Although he plays the leading role of Javert on Broadway, the thought had never occurred to him. His design team has already wowed him, and of the actors, he was "amazed by the talent that showed up in Oregon."

Despite New York auditions, *Les Misérables* is a mostly local cast. Hunt's Javert, Leif Norby, shared the stage with Hunt in Broadway Rose's 2004 production of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. University of Oregon Opera Theater director Douglas Webster will play the leading role of Valjean. Webster, like Hunt, has appeared in *Les Misérables* both on Broadway and on tour.

If you've already seen either of those incarnations, expect the

unexpected this time. Hunt is open to new ideas and hungry for collaboration. After helping many directors highlight different themes in the show, one thing he's sure of—besides how to execute three wig changes in three minutes, as the show calls for—is that *Les Misérables* plays on a universal level. But beyond the obvious musical theater appeal, does *Les Mis* offer anything to homo audiences?

"We always love to hear the diva singers," Hunt offers with a laugh.

But he admits it goes deeper than that. Paraphrasing *Les Misérables* novelist Victor Hugo, Hunt articulates the main character's struggle he believes queers may connect with: "In the soul of Valjean there is a spark that is indestructible."

He continues: "The hero has a different point of view of God and the world than anyone else of that time. And he is oppressed for something so minor, but he chooses to perceive God as forgiving, instead of unyielding and punishing. It's about how we choose our own elemental truth."

—Jessica Wallenfels



Director Rob Hunt believes queers may connect with the main character's struggle in *Les Misérables*.

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