

on stage

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Eurydice*, a female-perspective retelling of the classic Greek myth about a heroine who is torn between a reunion with her dead father and the passion she shares with her beloved, through Oct. 26. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

Artists Repertory Theatre presents *Speech & Debate*, a modern comedy that examines what it means to connect with other people in our new world of instant messaging, podcasts and social networking Web sites, through Nov. 23. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

Artists Repertory Theatre presents the world premiere of gay playwright Marc Acito's *Holidazed*,

a comedy about a middle-class couple taking in a homeless "goth" girl who hates the holidays and discovering what it truly means to be a family, Nov. 8-Dec. 12. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

BodyVox presents *Encores: The Best of BodyVox* Oct. 22-25 at Newmark Theatre. (7:30 pm plus 2 pm Oct. 25. 1111 SW Broadway. \$12-\$46 from 503-229-0627.)

CoHo Productions presents the Northwest premiere of *The Receptionist*, in which an office's familiar atmosphere takes a sinister turn when Mr. Dart from the central office arrives unexpectedly, through Nov. 22. (Call for times. 2257 NW Raleigh

St. \$20-\$25 from 503-220-2646.)

Defunkt Theatre presents the world premiere of *Wish*, a dream-informed story of fate, responsibility and violence, through Oct. 18 at Back Door Theater. (8 pm. 4319 SE Hawthorne Blvd. \$10-\$15 from 503-481-2960.)

Hot Flashes, Portland's popular all-woman musical theater group, presents the premiere of *Mama's Got a Brand New Bag* through Oct. 25 at Portland Metro Performing Arts. (Call for times. 9933 SE Pine St. \$20-\$24 from 503-775-8017.)

Imago Theatre presents *Vladimir Vladimir*, a surreal comedy about a poor Yugoslavian magician who discovers the strangeness of metaphysics,

polarized clocks and tumbled worlds, through Oct. 25. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$16-\$24 from TicketsWest.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents the world premiere of *Prometheus the Musical*, about the legendary Greek who stole the sacred flame of the gods and gave it to man, through Oct. 19. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$26-\$28 from 503-635-3901.)

Lakewood Theatre Company presents Pulitzer Prize winner *You Can't Take It with You*, about a zany household where everyone does just what he or she pleases, Nov. 7-Dec. 14. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$26-\$28 from 503-635-3901.)

Mike Barber and Cydney Wilkes present *Music in the Middle: An Evening of Duets*, including the Northwest premiere of dance legend Deborah Hay's "Found Music," Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Conduit. (8 pm plus 2 pm Nov. 2. 918 SW Yamhill St. \$15 from Brown Paper Tickets.)

Minh Tran & Company presents a retrospective performance of the gay choreographer's work from the past decade Oct. 24-26 at Reed College's Sports Center Gym II. (7:30 pm. 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd. \$12-\$18 from Brown Paper Tickets.)

Miracle Theatre presents *La Carpa del Maestro*, a lively show of dance, music and theater in Portland's longest-running Day of the Dead celebration, Oct. 24-Nov. 9. (7:30 pm Thursday, 8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 525 SE Stark St. \$16-\$22 from 503-236-7253.)

New Century Players presents the Agatha Christie mystery *A Murder Is Announced* Oct. 31-Nov. 8 at Rex Putnam High School's Blackbox Theatre in Milwaukie. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday. 4950 SE Roethe Road. \$10-\$12 from 503-367-2620.)

North End Players presents *The Butler Did It*, a deft and diabolically clever thriller that mingles laughter and chills, through Oct. 19 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 7600 N Hereford St. \$8-\$10 from 503-705-2088.)

Northwest Children's Theater presents the world premiere of an original musical adaptation of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale *Hansel & Gretel* through Nov. 2 at Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center. (Call for times. 1819 NW Everett St. \$10-\$20 from 503-222-4480.)

Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents *Terrifying to the Macabre*, a festival of six one-act stories comparing classic spooks to modern thrills, through Nov. 9 at Shoe Box Theater. (7 pm Thursday and Sunday, 10 pm Friday and Saturday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$10 from 971-244-3740.)

Oregon Ballet Theatre presents gay choreographer Christopher Stowell's retelling of the iconic classical story *Swan Lake* through Oct. 18 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$19-\$132 from 503-2-BALLET.)

Oregon Children's Theatre presents the world premiere of *Gossamer*, about a group of dream givers who collect memories from belongings important to the individual and then weave them together to create dreams, Oct. 18-Nov. 9 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$16-\$24 from 503-228-9571.)

Our Shoes Are Red/The Performance Lab presents Pulitzer Prize nominee *Thom Pain (Based on Nothing)*, an existential one-man show with standup-style comic riffs and deadpan hipster banter that keep interrupting a corrosively bleak narrative, Nov. 6-23 at Kingstad Center in Beaverton. (7:30 pm Thursday, 7:30 and 9:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Nov. 23. 15450 SW Millikan Way. \$9-\$15 from 503-626-6338.)



Profile Theatre Project continues its Neil Simon season with *Fools* through Nov. 16.

Portland Center Stage presents *R. Buckminster Fuller: The History (and Mystery) of the Universe*, a one-man show that takes you inside the mind of one of the foremost scientists and philosophers of the 20th century, through Dec. 7 in Garding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$28.50-\$68.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Opera presents Beethoven's *Fidelio* Nov. 7-15 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$20-\$162 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Portland Opera's Broadway Across America presents the Tony-winning musical *Spring Awakening* Oct. 21-26 at Keller Auditorium. (Call for times. 222 SW Clay St. \$23.50-\$68.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Profile Theatre Project continues its Neil Simon season with *Fools*, set in 1890 in a small Russian village that has been struck with the curse of stupidity, through Nov. 16 at Theater Theatre. (Call for times. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$12-\$28 from 503-242-0080.)

Super Project Lab presents *Meet Your ___!*—an improv show that collides truth with fiction when special guests (including queer musician Sarah Dougher on Nov. 1 and queer novelist Marc Acito on Nov. 15) share true, unrehearsed stories from their lives—Oct. 18-Nov. 22 at Winningstad Theatre. (8 pm Saturday. 1111 SW Broadway. \$12 from 503-230-9061.)

Theatre Vertigo presents *Pterodactyls*, an absurdist black comedy about the demise of the Duncan family and, by extension, the species, Oct. 24-Nov. 22 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 Theatre presents the West Coast premiere of the hysterical and heartbreaking comedy *Dead Funny* through Oct. 26 at World Trade Center Theatre. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 121 SW Salmon St. \$16-\$29 from 503-235-1101.)

Triangle Productions presents *Eula Mae's Beauty Bait and Tackle*, gay playwright Frank Blocker's hilarious sendup about a former rodeo rider whose niece is trying to win the crown of Miss Alabama, Nov. 6-29 at Firehouse Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 1436 SW Montgomery St. \$18-\$20 from 503-239-5919.)

White Bird presents the West Coast debut of renowned Finnish choreographer Tero Saarinen, including a thrilling solo set to Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring," Oct. 29 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$20-\$50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Thrilled to Death

Those looking for a scare during the Halloween season will find two shows—Miracle Theatre's *La Carpa del Maestro* and Third Rail Rep's *Dead Funny*—with an unconventional take on death.

In a tribute to Day of the Dead, the celebratory Latino tradition of remembering deceased ancestors, writer Martín Milagro and director Philip Cuomos inspire the cast in a bilingual performance conceived during rehearsals.

"It's a remembrance of our loved ones that have passed, keeping their spirits alive by remembering the good times," said Danny Moreno, a gay actor and three-year veteran of Miracle's Day of the Dead show.

A clown, fire dancer and flag performer, Moreno joins hip-hop and Madison dancers, spoken word artists and acrobats in the vaudevillian show exploring the dynamic between a master and apprentice.

A former choreographer for Peacock in the Park dragsters, Moreno says he brings a queer sensibility to a "soft-spoken and light-footed" hula-hooping James Dean character.



Gay actor John Steinkamp (center) describes *Dead Funny* as "Halloween for grownups."

Despite modern twists, the festival's folklore is carried out through an omnipresent altar and traditional skeleton character, La Katrina.

Across the river at World Trade Center Theatre, audiences may shiver from *Dead Funny*, written by Terry

Johnson and directed by Slayden Scott Yarbrough. Gay actor John Steinkamp describes the show as "Halloween for grownups."

Dead Funny is about a group of friends who share an interest in dead British comedians and one who prioritizes the Dead Funny Society over his marriage. The author describes Steinkamp's animated character as "cheerful and slightly camp."

Despite its Benny Hill backdrop, this heavy play is "scary to grownups because it deals with difficult scenarios that can come up in a marriage," says Steinkamp, a proud husband of 21 years. "There's this pervasive sense of how life is fleeting and you only have so much time to live your life well and correctly in terms of doing the right thing."

Now there's a scary thought.

—Jaymee R. Cuti



Gay actor Danny Moreno (right) stars in Miracle Theatre's annual Day of the Dead celebration.

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