

on stage

Action/Adventure Theatre presents *Fall of the House* (Season 3), an improvised serial about seven roommates and their romantic entanglements, through Nov. 23 at Theater Theatre. (10:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 8 pm Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10 from 503-425-9176; Fridays are "pay what you can.")

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, extended through Dec. 7. (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, through Dec. 12. (Call for times. 1516 SW Alder St. \$20-\$47 from 503-241-1278.)

Blue Monkey Theater Company presents the Northwest premiere of *Altar Boyz!*—in which a Christian boy band rocks its way through heavenly hits—Dec. 5-Jan. 3, 2009, at Firehouse Theatre. (Call for times. 1436 SW Montgomery St. \$12-\$18 from 503-593-2466.)

Broadway Rose Theatre Company presents *Celebrate Home—A Broadway Rose Christmas*, combining classic carols, holiday pop songs and

original offbeat material for a melodic, imaginative look at our annual traditions, Dec. 5-21. (Call for times. 12850 SW Grant Ave., Tigard. \$20-\$30 from 503-620-5262.)

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.)

Collective of Geniuses presents the premiere of *Denial of Self*, a play that looks at the creation of alter egos, or "better" versions of ourselves, and how the Internet is used to feed this narcissistic adoration and affirmation of self-importance, Dec. 4-27 at Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center. (Call for times. 5340 N Interstate Ave. \$15-\$20 from 503-205-0715.)

Disjecta presents *The Old Man, the Goat & the Son of a Bitch*, a comic spy drama that revolves around the day and place in which President Ronald Reagan was shot by a deranged lunatic, Dec. 5-14. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 and 8 pm Sunday. 8371 N Interstate Ave. \$10 from www.disjecta.org.)

Do Jump presents *Do Jump: Home for the Holidays*, featuring recent works and old favorites woven together into a delightful evening of holiday fun, Nov. 29-Jan. 4, 2009, at Echo Theatre. (Call for times. 1515 SE 37th Ave. \$20-\$32 from 503-231-1232.)

Jane: A Theater Company presents *The Holly Jolly Hullahaloo!*—a family-friendly show that tells the tale of Hansel and Gretel with rollicking songs, dancing and silly jokes—Nov. 28-Dec. 28 at Theater Theatre. (7 pm Wednesday-Friday, 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. No shows Dec. 24 and 25. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10 from 503-286-3456.)

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, through Dec. 14. (Call for times. 368 S State St., Lake Oswego. \$26-\$28 from 503-635-3901.)

Lisa DeGrace presents *Flying Iron*, which utilizes music, movement, costume, text and clowning to explore the solitude of being alone, even when surrounded by people, Dec. 5-14 at Performance Works Northwest. (8 pm Friday-Sunday. 4625 SE 67th Ave. \$10-\$15 from 503-757-0212.)

NewSpace Entertainment presents *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the first collaboration between Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice to be performed on the professional stage, Dec. 2 and 3 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. (7:30 pm. 1037 SW Broadway. \$25-\$55 from Ticketmaster.)

North End Players presents *A Christmas Story*, Jean Shepard's holiday classic about a boy and his Red Ryder BB gun, Dec. 5-14 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. (8 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm

Sunday. 7600 N Hereford St. \$8-\$10 from 503-705-2088.)

Northwest Classical Theatre Company presents *Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band*, in which the detective investigates the suspicious death of a young woman at the behest of her sister, Nov. 21-Dec. 28 at Shoe Box Theater. (7 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2110 SE 10th Ave. \$15-\$18 from 971-244-3740.)

Oregon Repertory Theatre presents *The Lady with All the Answers*, starring Oregon Shakespeare Festival favorite Gretchen Rumbaugh as wise, funny, no-nonsense advice columnist Ann Landers, through Dec. 7 at Brunish Hall. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$22.50-\$27.50 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Oslund + Co./Dance presents "Bête Perdue," which muses on the capacity for disbelief and enchantment in the common world, with two new duets, "Thirst" and "Prrrr," through Nov. 23 at Imago Theatre. (8 pm. 17 SE Eighth Ave. \$14-\$16 from Brown Paper Tickets.)

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, through Nov. 23 at Kingstad Center in Beaverton. (7:30 and 9:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 15450 SW Millikan Way. \$9-\$15 from 503-626-6338.)

Portland Ballet presents *La Boutique Fantasque: The Enchanted Toyshop* Nov. 28 and 29 at Newmark Theatre. (2:30 and 7:30 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$6-\$40 from Ticketmaster.)

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 Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$28.50-\$88.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Center Stage revives Mead Hunter's hugely popular adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* Dec. 5-28 in Gerding Theater at the Armory. (Call for times. 128 NW 11th Ave. \$30-\$66.50 from 503-445-3700.)

Portland Revels presents *2008 Christmas Revels: A Visit to the Scandinavian Northlands*, a celebration of the winter solstice incorporating theater, dance and music, Dec. 5-14 at Scottish Rite Theater. (Call for times. 1515 SW Morrison St. \$7-\$35 from 503-274-4654.)

Portland State University presents *The Triumph of Love*, a tale of mistaken identities in which an accidental princess masquerades as a young man to woo her prince charming, through Nov. 29 at Artists Repertory Theatre. (7:30 pm Tuesday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. No show Nov. 27. 1516 SW Alder St. \$8-\$10 from 503-725-4612.)

Profile Theatre Project continues its Neil Simon season with a staged reading of the Pulitzer-winning play *Lost in Yonkers*, a coming-of-age tale concerning two brothers growing up during World War II, through Nov. 23 at Theater Theatre. (7:30 pm Friday and Saturday, 2 pm Saturday and Sunday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$10-\$15 from 503-242-0080.)



Lakewood Theatre Company stages *You Can't Take It with You* through Dec. 14.

Public Playhouse presents *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, bringing the holiday classic to life with five actors taking on all the roles, Dec. 5-20 at CoHo Theater. (7:30 pm Thursday-Saturday, 2 pm Sunday. 2257 NW Raleigh St. \$17-\$20 from 503-922-0532.)

Rick Huddle presents *Spent*, a monologue combining the tales of Chinese princesses, evil IMF warlords, John Keynes' theory of economics and Tonya Harding into one riveting story that's essential to today's financial crisis, Dec. 4-20 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$18 at the door, \$15 in advance from 503-720-0397; Thursdays are "pay what you will.")

Super Project Lab presents *Meet Your ___*—an improv show that collides truth with fiction when special guests share true, unrehearsed stories from their lives—Nov. 22 at Winningstad Theatre. (8 pm. 1111 SW Broadway. \$12 from 503-230-9061.)

Super Project Lab presents *3Some*, in which three performers improvise two full-length stories populated by dozens of characters, Dec. 5-13 at Curious Comedy Theater. (9:30 pm Friday and Saturday. 5225 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. \$10 from 503-477-9477.)

Teasers of Joy Theatre presents *Jungle Book*, in which a puppeteer gives amazing life to an array of unforgettable characters who remind us that our families consist of those who love and protect us, through Nov. 30 at Winningstad Theatre. (Call for times. 1111 SW Broadway. \$14-\$16 from 503-248-0557.)

Theatre Vertigo presents *Pterodactyls*, an absurdist black comedy about the demise of the Duncan family and, by extension, the species, through Nov. 22 at Theater Theatre. (8 pm. 3430 SE Belmont St. \$15 from 503-306-0870.)

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, through Nov. 29 at Firehouse Theatre. (8 pm Thursday-Saturday. 1436 SW Montgomery St. \$18-\$20 from 503-239-5919.)

White Bird continues its Uncaged Dance Series with a thrilling collaborative program of new choreography by Skinner/Kirk + Bielermeier Dec. 3-7 at the Portland Opera Studio Theater. (8 pm Wednesday-Friday, 2 and 8 pm Saturday and Sunday. 211 SE Carruthers St. \$16-\$26 from box office or Ticketmaster.)

Home for the Holidazed

For a unique and heartfelt take on the holiday experience, Artists Repertory Theatre presents the world premiere of *Holidazed*, a play co-written by Portland humorist Marc Acito, directed by Jon Kretzu and featuring local faves like Susannah Mars and Michael Mendelson.

"I wanted to deconstruct the holidays. I think it's really important to examine why it is that we do what we do," Acito says. "It's a family Christmas show with a more satiric edge. Families, especially in Portland, are looking for it. We already have a lot of saccharine and wholesome. I want life more as we know it."

Julia, a suburban mother of three, brings home Luna, a homeless teenage girl. Julia's kids are intrigued, but her husband and friends are skeptical. After a disastrous Thanksgiving dinner and unexpected guests, they hurtle toward Christmas with the reality they used to know turned upside down.

As a gay man, Acito always brings a queer sensibility to the work he does, but he is also aware of the full spectrum of his audience. "I wanted to write something that was compelling for gays and not off-putting to straights," he says.

Holidazed started as a novel for Acito, who soon found himself up against a wall with it. "Somewhere I got off track," he says. Enter local screenwriter Cynthia

Whitcomb, who Acito asked to help him adapt the novel. "I just thought it would work better onstage," he says.

The piece covers the full spectrum of theatrical entertainment including puppets, gender-bending double casting, a drag show and some family-friendly innuendo. "I



The "picture perfect" family gets a new addition when Mom takes in a homeless, pagan teenage girl in *Holidazed*.

love when the theater does what it does best," Acito says.

He adds: "As writers, [Cynthia and I are] both interested in the idea of logical family versus biological family. What I want people to understand is that love makes a family and to understand what it is to open our hearts to another human being on the street and see their humanity."

—Kristin Steele

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