

State of the Arts

The new year gears up with must-see visual and performing arts

It's January—the holiday whir has passed, visitors departed, decorations taken down, leftovers inhaled. Now what to do?

From the looks of things, we haven't a moment to rest, as Portland's ever bustling arts community rolls out one event after another this first month of 2011. How about a festival devoted to new works in the arts, from staged readings to fully-staged productions, ensemble and collaborative-driven efforts that span dance, comedy, visual art and film?

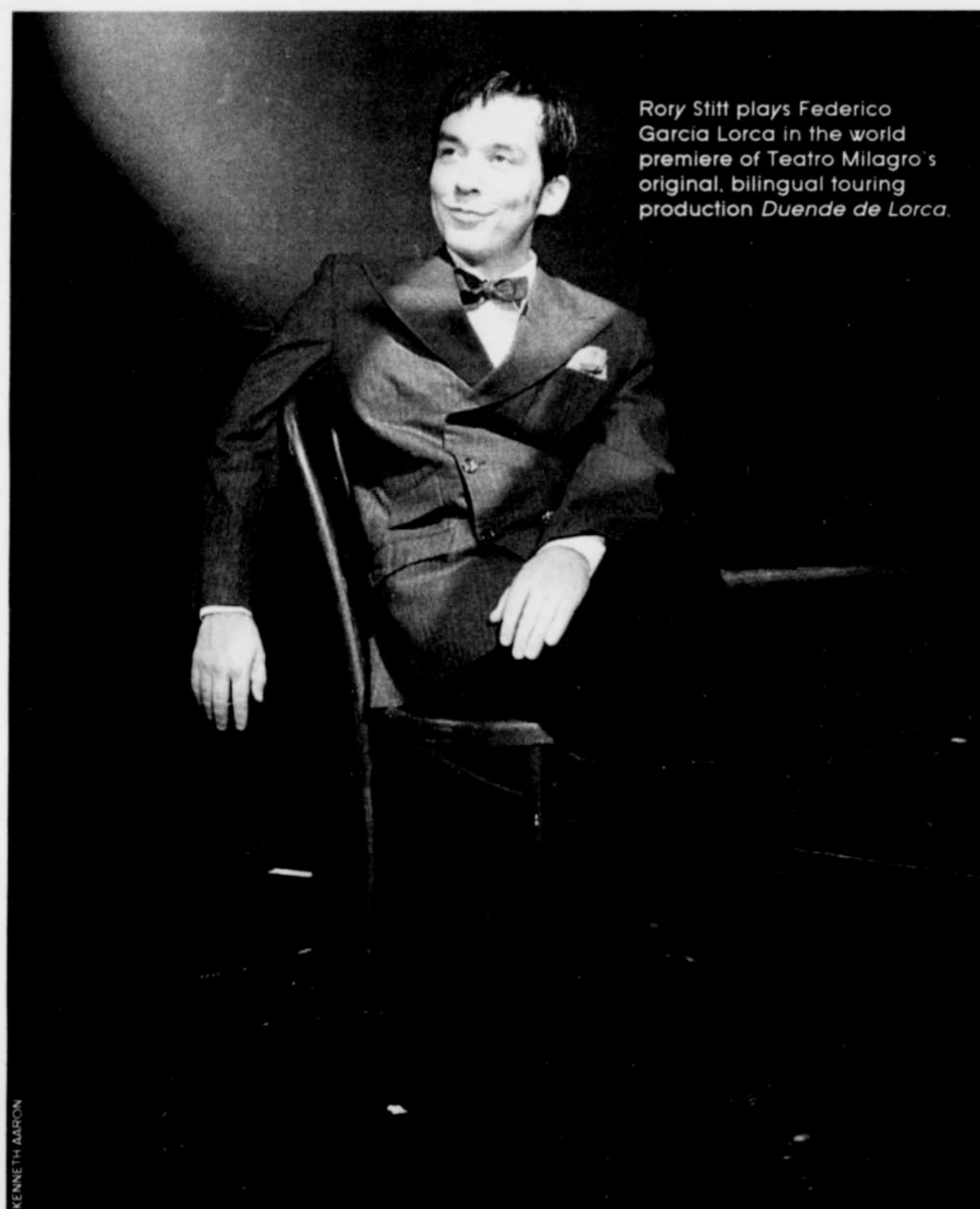
Or a world-premiere play about an iconic writer of the early 1900s? Or a special talk by a revered queer photographer responsible for

some of the most memorable, provocative images from the latter half of the 20th century and beyond?

Yeah, we've got that.

Portland is, indeed, fertile ground for all manner of visual and performing arts. Read on for more about January's must-see events—all the motivation you need to suit up and, well, weather the yucky weather. And visit blogout.justout.com for more cultural offerings. In the meantime, see you at the theater, and gallery, and museum, and dance studio...

—Amanda Schurr



Rory Stitt plays Federico García Lorca in the world premiere of Teatro Milagro's original, bilingual touring production *Duende de Lorca*.

KENNETH AARON

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

World premiere of *Duende de Lorca* brings life of Federico García Lorca to life

BY RYAN J. PRADO

The life of Federico García Lorca was a turbulent study of acceptance into a new class of Spanish surrealist artists, poets and playwrights during the fertile modernism of the "Generation of '27." He, along with luminaries such as Salvador Dalí, paved a new road for dramatic theater and the expansion of the mind with such famous plays as *Mariana Pineda* and his poetry collection *Gypsy Ballads*. His premature death at age 38—suspected to have been at the hands of anti-communist death squads during the Spanish Civil War—cemented Lorca's legacy as an enigmatic artist even before a ban on his work was lifted in 1953.

But it is not the later years of success and controversy that Dañel Malán—artistic director of Teatro Milagro—chose to spotlight when penning a stage play based on Lorca's life. Instead, Malán opted to focus on Lorca as a 27-year-old struggling artist who still lived with his parents, and whose plays were criti-

cized heavily by Spain's literati.

Duende de Lorca, a bilingual play written by Malán, will run two weekends only. The world premiere, on Friday, January 14 at Teatro Milagro, will be followed by a tour of Oregon colleges at the end of February and will hopefully expand to other parts of the country in the fall.

Malán's vision for a stage play about Lorca sprung from the creative process employed during last year's successful *American Sueño* production. That play was written based on Malán's desire to portray LGBTQ-identified Latinos, and she conducted interviews with the LGBTQ Latino community to help with materializing the struggles associated within that minority.

"This year I read every book I could find about Lorca and his close friends, such as Dalí," says Malán. "It was a more intimate process—reading letters he had written to his closest friends, exposing his fears and tri-

Arcanaphilia