

Front and Center

A rundown of some of the best onstage offerings this month BY AIMEE GENTER

When rounding up the various stage-related events around town, it's hard to decide where to begin. The first chronological choice is **Live Wire!**, our fair city's iconic radio variety show, as it's celebrating its seventh anniversary April 15. Happy birthday, *Live Wire!* And who better to help them mark the occasion than musical guest and *Just Out* favorite Holcombe Waller—not to mention Academy Award-nominated auteur Todd Haynes (*Far From Heaven, Velvet Goldmine*)? (April 15, 7:30 p.m., Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park, \$25-\$40, 503-548-4920, livewireradio.org)

Across the river, Miracle Theatre concludes their production of **BOOMCRACKLEFLY**, which attempts to answer the question, "When you spend your life dreaming, what happens when you finally get what you want?" (Runs through April 16, 8 p.m., Miracle Theatre, 525 SE Stark, \$16-\$25, 503-236-7253, milagro.org)

Lest we'd forget our good friends at White Bird, here's a friendly reminder that **White Bird Uncaged** is bringing Israeli choreographer Yossi Berg to town for what promises to be a can't-miss multimedia dance experience. (Runs through April 16, Alberta Rose Theatre, 3000 NE Alberta, \$18-\$28, 503-245-1600, whitebird.org)

Billy Elliot The Musical winds up its brief run as part of the Broadway Across America tour, and we're sad to see it go. The "Young Billy dancing with Future Billy" scene alone is worth the price of admission. (Runs through April 17, Keller

Auditorium, 222 SW Clay, \$31-\$125, 503-241-1802, broadwayacrossamerica.com)

Enough sadness, let's talk about openings! **Opus** premieres on April 15, and the anticipation is killing theater (and classical music) enthusiasts. A play about a squabbling string quartet, *Opus* marks a return to the stage for Portland Center Stage's artistic director, Chris Coleman, whom we just happened to speak with this issue—read all about it on p. 28. (Runs through May 5, Portland Center Stage, 128 NW 11th, \$20-\$50, 503-445-3700, pcs.org)

Also opening soon (April 19, to be exact) is Artists Repertory's production of **The Cherry Orchard**. A Chekhov adaptation, the play concerns a bourgeois family on the brink of foreclosure, a rather timely premise given our current economic state. (Runs through May 22, Artists Repertory Theatre, 1515 SW Morrison, \$20-\$42, 503-241-1278, artistsrep.org)

As for the rest...

In Theatre Vertigo's production of **The Adding Machine**, a man loses it when he finds out he's going to be replaced by a machine. Written in the 1920s, this seems eerily foretelling, no? (Runs through May 7, Theater! Theatre! 3430 SE Belmont, \$15, 503-306-0870, theatrevertigo.org)

My personal favorite, Portland Playhouse, has been getting terrific reviews for **Ma Rainey's Black Bottom**, an August Wilson play about a legendary blues singer and her legendary diva fits in the recording studio. (Runs through May 15, Portland Playhouse, 602 NE Prescott, \$20-\$25, 503-205-0715, portlandplayhouse.org)

Portland Actors Conservatory brings Sarah Ruhl's **Passion Play** to life through "amateur" reenactments of the death of Jesus. Yes, really. Have you ever attended a real Pas-

Tennessee Williams: Better with zombies?

sion Play? Morbid stuff. (Runs through May 1, Firehouse Theatre, 1436 SW Montgomery, \$15-\$25, 503-274-1717, actorsconservatory.com)

Fresh off a European tour, the folks at BodyVox are back home with dance performance **a thousand little cities**. With imagery by Tad Savinar and a soundtrack ranging from Bono/The Edge to John Adams and Aphex Twin, BodyVox's signature style is on full display here. (May 5-21, BodyVox Dance Center, 1201 NW 17th, \$36-\$49, 503-229-0627, bodyvox.com)

Next up for Triangle Productions! is **[title of show]**—yes, that's the title of the show. Featuring "Two Nobodies in New York" and the journey from their living room to Broadway, it's a classic Cinderella story. (May 5-29, The Sanctuary@Sandy Plaza, 1785 NE Sandy, \$15-\$35, 503-239-5919, tripro.org)

Improv darlings The Unscriptables present **The Uninvited: Tennessee Williams with Zombies**. Does this really need an explanation? Zombies, people! (Through April 30, The Unscriptables Studio, 1221 N. Loring, "pay what you want!", 503-309-3723, theunscriptables.com)

Profile Theatre presents a staged reading of **A Walk in the Woods**. Taking audiences back to the Cold War era, the production explores the personal exchanges between two individuals (diplomats from the United States and Soviet Union) whose relationship ultimately has a global impact. (Runs through April 24, Theater! Theatre!, 3430 SE Belmont, \$10-\$15, 503-242-0080, profiletheatre.org)



hunt
&
Gather™

Treasures For The Home & Soul



Not every Eco-effort includes Sacrifice

Check out our affordable collection of local Art painted on recycled materials & organic accessories.

Interior Design Consulting Available IN THE PEARL - NOT PEARL PRICES!
CUSTOM ORDERED FURNITURE IN YOUR HOME IN AS LITTLE AS 4 WEEKS!
1302 NW Hoyt St., Portland • 503-227-3400 • huntgather.com

WHAT WOULD
YOU GIVE TO
SAVE YOUR
BROTHER'S
LIFE?

Measure for Measure -
Just one of 12 great plays.

Ashland 2011.

Stephanie Beatriz
is Isabela



Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

BUY YOUR TICKETS

WWW.OSFASHLAND.ORG PHONE: 800-219-8161