

Iraq

After June 30:

**How Can We Get Out,
and When?**

Come, get informed and be prepared to take action.

Teach-in / Rally

When: Saturday, June 19, 2004, 12 noon

Where: Federal Building Plaza, 7th and Pearl St.

Speakers:

- **Marion Malcolm, CALC, Emcee**
- **Ibrahim Gassama, Associate Professor of International Law at the U of O**
- **Susan Cundiff, Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)**
- **Gordon Lafer, Associate Professor, Labor Education Research Center, U of O**

The Teach-in/Rally is sponsored by Progressive Responses, a program of Community Alliance of Lane County and endorsed by a number of additional local groups.
For more information contact Progressive Responses at CALC, 485-1755 or vanhoute@onlink.net



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THEATER BY SHARLEEN NELSON

Review

Torrid Fling

Life is full of wonderful understanding.

The Lord Leebrick Theatre Company's 2003-04 season ends on a high note with the smartly written and fabulously funny farce, *Wonder of the World*, from playwright David Lindsay-Abaire. The play examines a problem shared by many — when we realize all the things we meant to do but never got around to doing.

The play opens on Cass, who discovers a disturbing secret of her husband's buried in his sweater drawer. Cass is simultaneously packing her bags and weeping over an old movie when husband Kip arrives unexpectedly. He catches her packing and tries to dissuade her from leaving. He has even prepared for her a delicious aspic in the shape of a fish. But Cass's mind is made up, and armed with her suitcase, the aspic, and a notebook full of things to do that she never did. She embarks on an incredible odyssey of self-discovery.

Cass' seatmate on the bus is a woman named Lois, who is harboring a big, round, suspicious-looking object. Feeling giddy with her newfound freedom, Cass shares with Lois her plans for a new life. Lois, as it turns out, is headed to Niagara Falls for a different reason — to end her own life. Lois's husband dumped her because of her drinking problem, and the object is a barrel she intends to use to propel herself over the falls to her death.

Fortunately, having a sidekick is one of the things Cass has always desired, so she drags the boozing Lois along for the ride as she endeavors to tick more items off of her long list — from riding in a helicopter to wearing a big wig to dressing in overalls, to name but a few.

On a boat excursion, she meets Captain Mike, a lonely widower, who fits nicely into Cass's "have a torrid fling" category. Meanwhile, Kip has employed a bumbling husband-and-wife investigator team to locate his wayward wife.

Epiphanies and chaos erupt when every-

one winds up in Cass's hotel room where a dysfunctional therapist on parole conducts group therapy via a mock "The Newlyweds Game." Will Cass take Kip back despite his freaky fetish? Or, will she run off with Captain Mike in a Winnebago? Can she save Lois? Will she ever go parachuting? Life is full of wonderful possibilities.

Director Stephen Rupsch has assembled an extraordinary cast. A one-woman ball of energy, Melanie Harmon is both dynamic and endearing as the high-spirited Cass. Likewise, Michael Scott is wholly convincing as her pathetic, whimpering, sweater-wearing husband, Kip. Connie Hymer is a riot as the ever-inebriated Lois. Sharon Wetterling and Ken Hoff grab the laughs as the dabbling P.I. duo Karla and Glen, and Richard Leebrick is fantastic as Captain Mike. Rounding out this delightful cast is Jennifer Thomas, who lends herself to multiple roles as Barbara, a helicopter pilot, an odd assortment of waitresses, and therapist Janie.

Funny, poignant and over the top, *Wonder of the World* is as entertaining as it gets. **EW**



The cast of
Wonder of the World.

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