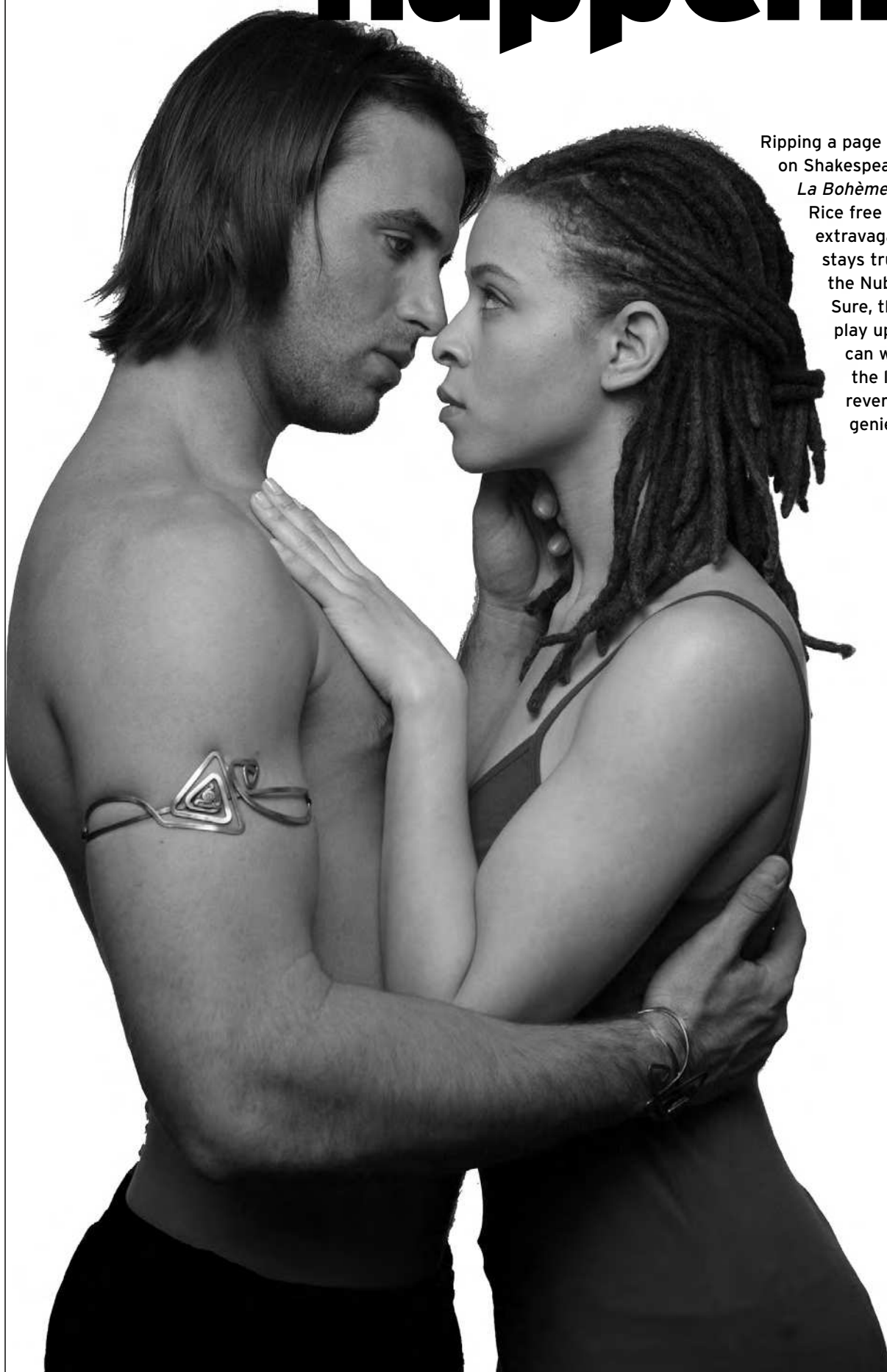


WHAT'S happening



Ripping a page out of the playbook used in *West Side Story* (based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*) and *Rent* (based on Puccini's *La Bohème*), Disney on Broadway gave Elton John and Tim Rice free reign to adapt Verdi's *Aida* to a modern musical extravaganza. The story of ***Aida: The Timeless Love Story*** stays true – except for new bookends – to Verdi's telling of the Nubian princess who falls for the Egyptian captain. Sure, there are songs (such as "My Strongest Suit") that play up the hip fashionista in the beautiful *Aida* (hmmm, can we say *Marie Antoinette*?), but the love story ... ah, the love story. Think Disney's *Aladdin*, only role-reversed, more interracially charged and no cheesy genies! See Saturday and Sunday Calendar.

The teacher comes to the student in this week's **Eugene Symphony** performance. That's right, our very own Giancarlo Guerrero's teacher, **Victor Yampolsky** (pictured below), conducts the symphony's performance of masters from Dvorak (*Serenade for Strings*) to Shostakovich (*Prelude and Scherzo* and the big finale, *Symphony No. 9*). OK, we won't leave out Richard Strauss' *Duet for Concertino* because we like the Symphony's little palette-cleansers. Anyway, we're also excited that the night features clarinetist **Michael Anderson** (we don't know you, Michael, so we can't say if you're Hott, sorry) and sexy bassoon man **Steve Vacchi** (whom we miss in town; he's on leave from the Oregon Mozart Players to go off and play sexy bassoon in Portland this year). Go woodwinds! The symphony continues to push itself to tackle big pieces. Come see how the hardworking musicians carry it off. See Thursday, March 22 Calendar.



Gemstones: We either polish them, cut them up and wear them or we leave 'em rough and display them on our windowsills. Either way you like your gems, this weekend's **Gem Faire** at the Lane County Fairgrounds makes for some serious eye candy. In addition to gems, the fair features beads, jewelry, minerals, fossils, meteorites and, um, metaphysical items, all at cut-rate prices. Bring your gem bag. See Friday, Saturday and Sunday Calendar.