

# ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE KISS

University Theatre takes on playwright Sarah Ruhl's love letter to the theater

**W**ay back when, the late, great American writer Kurt Vonnegut published a short story — “Who Am I This Time?” — about a pair of community theater actors who, awkward in so-called real life, fall in love through the character they play on stage. In Vonnegut's sure hands, the conceit is melancholy and sweet, a concession to the fraught slapstick of authentic emotional connection.

In *Stage Kiss*, now in production at University Theatre, playwright Sarah Ruhl (*The Clean House*) takes Vonnegut's simple yet profound theme of actors acting themselves into (and out of) love and turns it into a sprawling comedy of manners, part postmodern farce and part sexed-up dramedy. After the grueling assault of UT's previous production, the excellent (but nearly four-hour long) *Scorched*, *Stage Kiss* is just what it says: a light, refreshing buss on the cheek for fans of smart romantic comedy.

At the center of the play are the appropriately named She (Anna Klos) and He (TJ LaGrow), the lead actors in an amateur production of a forgotten (and rather bad) fictional 1930s melodrama about a heroine with one month to live. Turns out He and She have a bit of a burnt romantic history, and their surprise reunion on stage leads

to a kind of doubling: As they rehearse the play, they work out their failed affair and present resentments, as well as their ambivalent attraction, through the characters they've assumed.

The passage of time, of course, has complicated things. He, a cynical snob, is currently in a lukewarm relationship with a bouncy schoolteacher from Iowa (the wonderful Clare McDonald), and She's married to an investment banker (Riley Mulvihill) who proves something more complicated than the stuffed shirt he at first seems.

Director Zeina Salame does a fine job juggling all this zaniness and chaos, which amounts to no less than a play within a play within a play. The rest of the cast is strong, including Hannah Rice as the pollyannaish director of the '30s melodrama under rehearsal, and Conner Criswell as the rather hapless understudy Kevin, whose attempts to depict straight people making out provides one of the show's most hilarious running gags (especially for Her).

By turns silly and sharp, *Stage Kiss* is a kind of love letter to the joys of theater itself. It takes the audience backstage, quite literally at times, as the cast roams about the theater in a bustle of activity. Ruhl's play hits all the right notes; it is bittersweet and funny about the romantic shenanigans actors get themselves into, and it's wryly warmhearted about the collective energy that sustains, and must necessarily sustain, the art of theater.

In *Stage Kiss*, the audience is the fly on the wall of theater, given a candid peek behind the curtain, and what we see is that, yes, all the world's indeed a stage, whether we're hitting our marks or not.

*Stage Kiss* plays through May 7 at UO's Robinson Theatre; \$14-\$16, info and tickets at [blogs.uoregon.edu](http://blogs.uoregon.edu).



ANNA KLOS, CLARE MCDONALD, CONNER CRISWELL AND TJ LAGROW IN *STAGE KISS*

# CLASSIFIEDS

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## EVENTS

**AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC HERITAGE SHOWCASE:** In Celebration of African-American Gospel Music, A Musical Journey, presented by Inspirational Sounds, a non-profit Gospel Choir with the Lane County NAACP. Sunday May 1st, 3pm, Soreng Theater in the Hult Center. Some featured artists: John Gainer and the Portland/Vancouver GMWA choir, praise dancer, Shekela Fortson, Stone Cold Jazz, African dancers Habib and friends, God In Charge, a Portland children's group, Montrell Goss, Stanley Coleman as Bayard Rustin, early civil rights activist. Emceed by Eric Richardson, pres. of the Lane NAACP. Tix at Hult Center box office. This program paid for in part by a grant from Lane County Arts Council of Eugene, cultural services division.

## FOR SALE

### Clothing

**REMIX APPAREL EXCHANGE** located at 1449 Mohawk Blvd in Springfield, men's and women's resale clothing store meets art studio. While you search through our constantly changing name brand inventory, enjoy all the local artist's work on the walls and coming through the speakers.

### Furnishings

**QUALITY FURNITURE** Clean, modern & antique, furniture, electronics, tools & collectibles. New estates arriving daily. We are also buying! 939 River Road, 689-4554, [riverroad2ndhand.com](http://riverroad2ndhand.com) **CHECK US OUT!**

### Household

**KILL ROACHES - GUARANTEED!** Buy Harris Roach Tablets with Lure. Odorless, Long Lasting. Available: Hardware Stores, The Home Depot, [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com) (AAN CAN)

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Announcements

**\*\* HELP SHIFT THE PARADIGM \*\***  
**PEOPLE POWER** Heals Life on Earth  
 3-min. YouTube video "Time for Change"  
[share-international.org](http://share-international.org) **TAKE HEART**

### Lost & Found

**FOUND WATCH.** Found along 99 recently, still running. Call to describe watch and where you lost it. (541) 285-0999.

**LOST BROWN IPHONE/WALLET** Friday April 15, 5 pm. Campbell Ctr parking lot. Pls return my phone & ID's, no questions asked! EPD has been notified, can return to them or the Campbell Ctr or call Phil at (541) 521-0427.

### Wanted

**CASH FOR CARS:** Any Car/Truck 2000-2015, Running or Not! Top Dollar For Used/Damaged. Free Nationwide Towing! Call Now: 1-888-420-3808 (AAN CAN)

**SEEKING KIDNEY DONOR** Type O is preferable but any blood type is ok. All medical expenses paid. Contact 541-255-5257

### Pets

**GREENHILL HUMANE SOCIETY** Everybody Deserves a Good Home. Fr-Tu 11a-6p. Closed Wed/Th 88530 Greenhill Rd 541-689-1503 [green-hill.org](http://green-hill.org) See our Pet of the Week!

**SHELTER ANIMAL RESOURCE ALLIANCE** S.A.R.A.'s Treasures Gift & Thrift Shop. Volunteer, Donate, Shop, **ADOPT!**  
 871 River Road, Open Daily 10am-6pm.  
 541-607-8892 [sarastreasures.org](http://sarastreasures.org)  
**LOOK FOR THIS WEEK'S RESCUED CAT.**

## HELP WANTED

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

We are looking for an Administrative Assistants to act as a liaison, provide product/services information and resolve any emerging problems that our clients might face with accuracy and efficiency. He/She will support our manager and employees through a variety of tasks related to organization and communication ensuring that all administration tasks are completed accurately and delivered with high quality in a timely manner. The target is to ensure excellent service standards and maintain high customer satisfaction. For more info contact: [thutton12@hotmail.com](mailto:thutton12@hotmail.com)

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**KITCHEN HELPER AT SERENITY LANE.** For complete job description and application process, visit [www.serenitylane.org](http://www.serenitylane.org) and click on Employment Opportunities. Drug Free Workplace. EOE.

# EVENTS CALENDAR



*Raise the Kundalini!*  
*Dwell in the Heart*  
 3635 Hilyard | [yogawesteugene.com](http://yogawesteugene.com)

**Whiteaker Art Walk Schedule:**  
 Friday 4/29 5-9pm

Featured at WTC  
 -Sharden Killmore's dead fly art  
 -Music & paintings of Mike Smith & Sandy Ego  
 -Illuminated Botanicals Art of Violet & Rose  
 -the band SAFFRON  
 -After party at Blairally



**Blue Cliff Zen Center**  
**ZEN MEDITATION and MINDFULNESS**  
 for PHYSICAL PAIN • 5-Week Course  
 May 31 - June 28 (5 Tuesdays)  
 7:30pm to 9:30pm  
 details at [www.bluecliffzen.org](http://www.bluecliffzen.org)



**JUNE DANCE CLASSES!**  
 4 Weeks / Thursday Nights  
 MEET OTHER SINGLES or DANCE WITH YOUR PARTNER  
 6pm Beginner and Beyond/  
 Fox Trot and Hustle  
 7:15pm Intermediate/  
 Experienced / Quick Step  
 Registration Deadline  
 May 20th, 2016

Download Flyer & Registration Form at [www.danceeugene.com](http://www.danceeugene.com) or (541)342-3058

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
 SARA MARIE SHEAHAN  
 NEVER LET ANYONE DULL YOUR SPARKLE