



OVER A BARREL

A marriage falls to shit in VLT's production of David Lindsay-Abaire dark comedy Wonder of the World

Not that anybody's clamoring for my approval, but let me begin by congratulating Very Little Theatre for daring to step afoul of the staid, risk-averse traditions that dominate so much arts programming in this town, and staging something relatively new and fresh — a play full of outcast eccentricity and sexual perversion and fumbling questions about the validity of modern existence.

I'm pretty sure that when Tennessee Williams first appeared — full of outcast eccentricity and sexual perversion and existential angst — he ruffled a lot feathers, but those theater companies brave enough to confront audiences with his art did a favor for the ages.

Now, playwright David Lindsay-Abaire — whose *Wonder of the World* is now at VLT — ain't Tennessee Williams, but his writing certainly pushes the envelope in many of the same ways. And that's refreshing, and challenging, and a bit frustrating.

Directed by Michael Walker, Lindsay-Abaire's darkly absurd play tells the story of Cass (Clare McDonald), a young woman whose husband, Kip (Cody Mendonca), is possessed by a gag-inducing sexual fetish involving decapitated Barbie dolls. Disgusted and understandably alarmed, Cass decides to leave her man as well as her comfortable Brooklyn existence. She hops on a bus to Niagara Falls, where she befriends Lois (Marla Norton), a suicidal alcoholic, and has a fling with an impeccably polite and slightly melancholy captain of a tour boat (Alex Miller, as the widower Captain Mike).

Add to this bizarre mix an elderly pair of half-assed detectives sent by Kip to track down his wife (Sharon Sless and T. Sean Prescott), and you've got a recipe for a nihilistic comic romp in the manner (if not the mode) of *Arrested Development*, full of amplified ironies and cartoonish transgressions. The writing is unhinged and loose-limbed, so much so that the play feels, at

times, like an extended bit of improv, for better and worse.

The cast is good, especially Jennifer Appleby. She takes on several important roles, including that of a marriage therapist in clown make-up who is brought in to sort out the escalating chaos of Kip and Cass' marital impasse. Appleby has a dry, wry approach to the play's millennial humor, and she brings a knowing comic wink to each strange character she inhabits. She's just right.

Overall, *Wonder of the World* is equal parts entertaining and annoying, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. I imagine your response to it will depend on your stomach for watching the neurotic, narcissistic oscillations of Cass, whose myopic striving for liberation often looks like the confused, all-consuming tantrum of a spoiled brat (then again, that Barbie thing is a bit of a deal-breaker). McDonald, an appealing actor, plays the part with talent and zest; it's just that I found Cass, with her compulsory *joie de vivre* and forced likability, rather unlikable.

Nonetheless, the play is sharply observed and often quite funny, and it certainly scores points for Walker's tight direction and innovative set design (much of it automated). Its comedy is distinctly Park Slope-hip — a snarky, detached slapstick whose mannered flailings reside somewhere between the coy films of Hal Hartley and the lighter side of David Mamet. Call it an offering for Generation Xanax.

For me, the most interesting thing about *Wonder of the World* is how, in the end, with the whole thing threatening to go over the falls in a proverbial barrel, the play barely succeeds in pushing back against the meaninglessness that forever threatens to drown its characters. The minor victory Cass achieves is so tenuous and random, it's almost pointless — a coincidence from which she derives only a punchline of comfort.

Wonder of the World plays through March 31 at Very Little Theatre; info and tickets at thevl.com or 541-344-7751.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad: **CALL** 541.484.0519 **EMAIL** classy@eugeneweekly.com
WEB classifieds.eugeneweekly.com **WRITE** 1251 Lincoln St. Eugene, OR 97401
VISIT our office Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

LINE ADS: \$11/3 LINES
 ADDITIONAL LINES: \$4

BULLETIN BOARD

Announcements

EUGENE SEX ADDICTS ANONYMOUS Helpline Recording [541-342-5582]. For meetings & information: www.eugene-saa.com

Lost & Found

FOUND AND RETURNED THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON COLLECTION to Eugene Library. Go get your money back at the Library.

FOUND: MTN. BIKE behind dumpster near Wash. Park. Black, 18 speed, white letters. Contact EPD/Charles Municipal Court.

Wanted

I BUY GOLD & SILVER! Cash on the spot! Call/text: 541-221-0704. Example: 14K \$18/gram

Pets

GREENHILL HUMANE SOCIETY Everybody Deserves a Good Home. Open Fr-Tu 11a-6p, closed We/Th. 88530 Green Hill Rd 541-689-1503 and 1st Avenue Shelter open Tu-Fr 10a-6p & Sa 10a-5:30p, closed Su/Mo. 3970 W. 1st Ave 541-844-1777. 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 saratreasures.org **LOOK FOR THIS WEEK'S RESCUED CAT.**

Spiritual

CELEBRATION OF LIFE! Steve Helwig: Nov. 18, 1957 - Jan. 21, 2018. Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St., Eugene, OR. Sat., March 24 at 2 pm. Reception to follow.

FOR SALE

Garage Sales

FANTASTIC ARRAY of items from furniture onward. Sun. 3/25, 9 am-1 pm, 38702 Camp Creek Rd., Springfield. Rain or shine!

HUGE ESTATE SALE Furniture, Antiques, Tools, Art Supplies, Housewares and much more! Fri./Sat., 3/23-24, 9am-6pm, 64 Grimes St. [Directly off W. 1st], Eugene

Lawn & Garden

PLANT SALE Lots of unusual plants from my garden. 689-4686, 3000 Calla St., Eugene. Open Daily.

MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT

Lessons

JOHN SHARKEY teaches guitar, piano, keyboard, electric bass (1 hour/private). All ages/levels/styles. [541] 342-9543

EMPLOYMENT

Volunteer Opportunities

CDL TRUCK DRIVER WANTED! Unpaid volunteer position at a summer non-profit 3 day Festival offering music, crafts & wonderful food. Required: Class A CDL w/Tanker Endorsement. Duties: driving tandem axle tractor, towing a tank/trailer hauling potable water during festival hrs., working 4-6 hr. shifts. Position requires **EXPERIENCE** in backing up a tractor trailer. Email: scott2758@comcast.net.

HEARTS FOR HOSPICE OREGON seeks volunteers! Looking to make a difference? Get involved by: working in the resale shop, sorting donations, join pick-up crew or serve on Board. Online application: www.heartsforhospiceoregon.org OR pick up application at our resale shop: 444 Main St., Springfield, OR, open Wed.-Sat. 10-5.

WELLNESS

Wellness

NEED BIRTH CONTROL? AN ANNUAL EXAM? STI TESTING AND TREATMENT? Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon accepts patients with Blue Cross Blue Shield [Including Regence BCBS, Federal BD, Premera BCBS, Anthem BCBS], PacificSource, Cigna, MODA, Lifewise, First Choice Health, Trillium, OHP and other insurances. Make an appointment online today at ppsworegon.org or call 800-230-PLAN

HOME SERVICES

Cleaning

CONNIE'S CLEANING 1 time, monthly, weekly/bi-weekly. 26 yrs experience. Excellent references, reasonable rates. 541-222-0060

Hauling

THE RECYCLERS SINCE 1989 Jim Calhoun 541.953.6675 Gus Ramirez 541.514.4283 **SPRING CLEAN UPS.** Save on dump runs, yardwork, bark delivery, chainsaw work, hot tubs, scrap removal

Landscape

GREEN TREE YARD MAINTENANCE: Spring clean-ups, maintenance, mowing, pruning, fertilize, dethatching for residential & commercial. Bonded/insured. 541-650-5692

YARD CLEAN-UP, landscape maintenance and fruit tree pruning. Ready for spring gardening? Let us help! **SPENCER BUTTE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES** [541] 623-0603

Recycling

FREE RECYCLING, FREE REMOVAL Appliances, AC units, computers, batteries, metal, movers, bottles/cans. Tom 541-653-4475.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Attorney/Legal

DIVORCE \$155. Complete preparation. Includes children, custody, support, property and bills division. No court appearances. Divorced in 1-5 weeks possible. 503-772-5295. www.paralegalalternatives.com legalalt@msn.com

NEED A WILL? Call Sal Catalano, The Lawyer That Makes House Calls, for an appt. in your home: 541-525-2884. Powers of Attorney - Advance Directives - Trust Amendments. Website: www.OregonMobileLawyer.com

Film/Video/Photography

COMMUNITY TELEVISION (Comcast channel 29) offers hands-on classes in Studio and Field Production & Digital Editing. For info call 541-790-6616 or info@ctv29.org

AUTOS

Cars

CASH FOR JUNK VEHICLES. Farm & metal, etc. No title-Not running. Pay \$\$\$ Cash. 541-517-6528

LEGAL NOTICES

AMENDED NOTICE OF LANDLORD LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE - Edelweiss, LLC will sell to the highest bidder by public sale at 1600 Coburg Road, Suite[s] 2 and/or 3, Eugene, Oregon 97402, on April 14, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., the following-described property owned or reputedly owned by Sheryl and Mark Peterson, dba Beausoleil Bridal Boutique, Inc., a previously-dissolved Oregon corporation, dba Beausoleil Bridal Boutique, in order to satisfy a landlord's possessory lien pursuant to the provisions of ORS 87.162 in the amount of \$38,679.16 for unpaid rent and charges at 1600 Coburg Road, Suite[s] 2 and/or 3, Eugene, Oregon 97402, from Sheryl and Mark Peterson, dba Beausoleil Bridal Boutique, Inc., a dissolved Oregon corporation, dba Beausoleil Bridal Boutique to Edelweiss, LLC for rent and additional rent for the above described spaces and charges for the period December, 2017 through March, 2018 and for all additional amounts due under their Lease Agreement: 406 wedding dresses made by: Maggie Sottero & Rebecca Ingram [99]; Sottero Midgely [28]; Sincerity [53]; Cassablanca [52]; Sweetheart [41]; Alfred Angelo [51]; Enzoani [35]; Ella Rosa [5]; Enchanting [10]; Eden [9]; David Tutera [11]; Sophia Tolli [10]; Couture [7]; Cotton Bride [3]; and Divinci [3]. Other/miscellaneous items of lesser value: display cases, costume jewelry, and prom-type dresses. Dated this 12th day of March, 2018. Edelweiss, LLC By: /s/ Darren Stone, Darren Stone, Principal Broker ~ Jennings Group Authorized Agent for James & Marilyn Murdoch, Members

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Probate Department Case No. 17PB09196 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** In the Matter of the Estate of ALMA JEAN STEPHENS AKA JEAN STEPHENS, deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 5, 2018, William M. Stephens was appointed and deemed qualified to act as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present these claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative, in care of Brian D. Cox, Attorney at Law, 142 W. 8th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED: March 22, 2018 /s/ Brian D. Cox, OSB #902405 Attorney for Personal Representative.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON COUNTY OF LANE In the Matter of the Estate of: GARY WAYNE STIMSON, Deceased. Case No. 18PB01233 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Janet R. Stimson has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the Personal Representative at the law office of Robert K. Naslund, 2295

Coburg Road, Suite 201, Eugene, Oregon 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the Personal Representative or the attorney for the Personal Representative, Robert K. Naslund, 2295 Coburg Road, Suite 201, Eugene, Oregon 97401. Dated and first published: March 15, 2018. Robert K. Naslund, OSB #660877, Attorney for Personal Representative, 2295 Coburg Road, Suite 201, Eugene, Oregon 97401 [541] 344-2222, Janet R. Stimson, PO Box 40131, Eugene, OR 97404

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Probate Department Case No. 17PB09196 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** In the Matter of the Estate of ALMA JEAN STEPHENS AKA JEAN STEPHENS, deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 5, 2018, William M. Stephens was appointed and deemed qualified to act as the personal representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present these claims, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative, in care of Brian D. Cox, Attorney at Law, 142 W. 8th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, or the attorney for the personal representative. DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED: March 22, 2018 /s/ Brian D. Cox, OSB #902405 Attorney for Personal Representative.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY CASE NO. 17PB09210 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** in the matter of the Estate of Richard Darold Walden, Deceased. **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Ronald L. Sperry III has qualified and been appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate. All persons