

## FOCUS

A SUPPLEMENT  
OF

The  
Portland  
Observer

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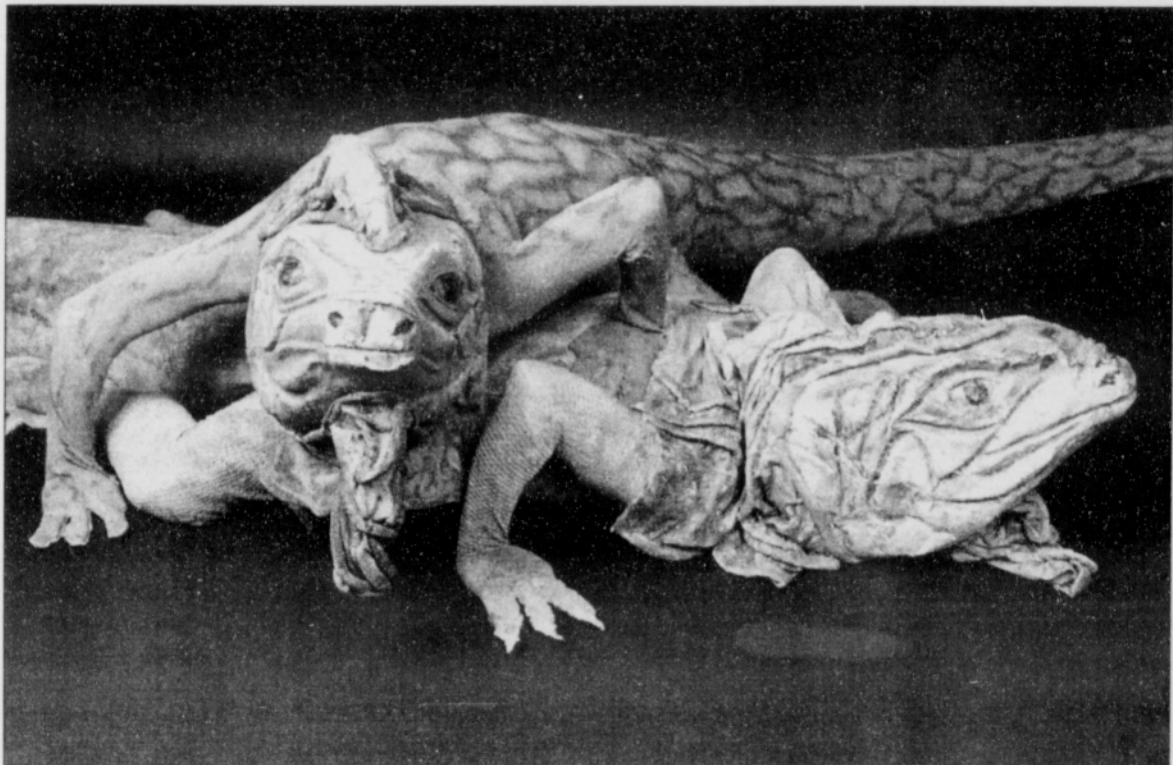
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1999 The Portland Observer

## Animals Doing Mime, Dance and Acrobatics

Imago Theatre's signature piece FROGZ (formerly Frogs, Lizards, Orbs and Slinkys) returns to Portland for a six week engagement at the Imago Theatre at 17 SE. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Last season this popular family show of mask theater and unusual creatures captured New York's Broadway and then sold out in Portland for 3½ months. FROGZ runs from April 19 - May 27.

With an original score by Katie Griesar (opening night is the CD release party) the soundscape uses an assortment of instruments to create a vaudevillian circus-like orchestration to accompany the zany, chaotic and lovable production. FROGZ which has toured internationally since 1986 features a giant paper bag which houses a crazy cat, penguins who play musical chairs, frogs who have a difficult time jumping, worms that do impossible handstands, cowboys caught in a cartoon world and other numerous hard-to-define yet impossible to forget creatures and surprises. For tickets and information, call Imago's Box Office at 503/231-9581 or Fastixx at 503/224-8499.



Lizards and other costumed characters create a carnival of the absurd in the premiere of FROGZ at the Imago Theatre.

### The Portland Opera Ends its Season with a Classical Satire

The "Monty Python" of his time, Offenbach was at the top of his form when he wrote "La Belle Hélène" in 1874. New to the Portland Opera stage, this wry satire of the Greek legend of Helen - the beautiful woman whose abduction ignited the Trojan War - mixes nimble wit with beguiling melody. The plot centers around the familiar Greek myth, "the Judgement of Paris." Paris, a handsome prince disguised as a shepherd, has judged a beauty contest and declared Aphrodite, the goddess of love, to be the winner. Aphrodite rewards his good taste by giving him the most beautiful woman in the world - Helen of Troy. There's just one problem: Helen is already married to grouchy old King Menelaus. Paris' seduction of Helen, and her (halfhearted) attempts at resistance, set the stage for comedy. In "La Belle Hélène," Offenbach slyly pokes fun not only at classical mythology, but also at the manners and customs of his time. Portland Opera's production takes the parody into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with mischievous costume and set designs. Calchas, the soothsayer, wears a toga but carries a cell phone, while Achilles could be a WWF wrestler. A neon sign hangs over neo-classical Greek columns, and Paris whisks Helen away on a ship that looks suspiciously like "The Love Boat." "La Belle Hélène" will be shown May 12, 14, 16, and 19 at the Keller Auditorium, located at 222 SW 3<sup>rd</sup>.



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Top 40's

for  
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