

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Smoldering Broadway Hit

Nominated for the 2012 Tony Award for Best Play, David Ives' smash hit *Venus in Fur* begins preview performances in Portland Center Stage's Ellyn Bye Studio on Tuesday, Jan. 29, opens on Friday, Feb. 1 and runs Tuesday through Sunday through March 10.

When a young actress shows up hours late for her appointment, she knows she may have blown her chances at the role. But when her emotionally charged audition for the demanding playwright/director becomes an electrifying game of cat and mouse that blurs the lines between fantasy and reality, seduction and power, love and sex—well, the rules may have all just changed.

"For me, one of the most interesting aspects of the story is delving into the hidden corners of a psyche that define a person's ideas of love and pleasure, the secrets that drive one to pursue difficult, painful or dangerous relationships," says Director Nancy Keystone.

Tickets start at \$39, with discounts available for students and those under 25. Go online at pcs.org, by phone at 503-445-3700, or by visit the box office at 128 N.W. 11th Ave.



Ginny Myers Lee and David Barlow star in *Venus in Fur*, previews on Tuesday, Jan. 29 with shows Feb. 1 through March 10 at Portland Center Stage.

From the Trenches of Middle School

Portland youth take stage at Sellwood Playhouse

Lunacy Stageworks presents "Stories: from the Trenches of Middle School" as told by a group of diverse southeast Portland youth as they sing, dance and laugh at being stuck in that absurd purgatory of 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

The improvisational comedy sketches are directed by instructors from Lunatic Fringe, a theater workshop of Lunacy Stageworks, aimed at helping community members create and perform plays out of their own experiences.

The organization has worked with recent immigrants, the homeless and human trafficking victims, providing a stage and an audience to foster understanding of all-too-often stereotyped populations.

The newest improvisational comedy sketches are with a group of savvy Lane Middle School students who reveal their inner lives to the world on their own terms.

Performances take place at Sellwood Playhouse, 901 S.E. Spokane, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, and Saturday, Jan. 26. Tickets are \$5. Visit lunacystageworks.org or call 503-528-4188.

Portland Comics Debut Match Game

Revival of TV classic at Curious Comedy

A comedic take on the classic TV game show "Match Game," will debut in front of a live studio audience at Curious Comedy Theater, 5225 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd., on Thursday, Jan. 24, at 8 p.m.

Fill in the Blank is a unique, unpredictable theater experience that will present the area's finest comedic personalities.

Panelists will complete sentences and phrases to help two audience members compete for prizes in a reprisal of the cheeky game show that made 1970s television audiences fall out of their chairs.

The show is hosted by come-

dian Nic Goans, producer of *The Spicy News*.

January panelists include Ian Karmel who stars in *Portlandia*; radio hosts Greg Nibler and Sarah X Dylan, and comedians Jen Allen and Christian Ricketts).

The initial run of *Fill in the Blank* also includes shows on Thursday, Feb. 28 and Thursday, March 28.

Tickets are \$5 at the door or in advance at curiouscomedy.org.



Ian Karmel

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