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The Boston Globe

Arts

The week ahead: Theater, dance, and art

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By Don Aucoin

GLOBE STAFF FEBRUARY 18, 2015

Theater

THE BIG MEAL In its sneaky, seriocomic way, Dan LeFranc's play about multiple generations of a fractious family touches some deep chords. Becca A. Lewis is a standout (as usual), in a strong cast. Directed by David J. Miller. *Through March 7. Zeitgeist Stage Company, at Plaza Black Box Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts. 617-933-8600, www.zeitgeiststage.com*

GREEN PORNO, LIVE ON STAGE Isabella Rossellini's beguilingly eccentric solo show amounts to the weirdest biology class ever. Her subjects are the sexual and reproductive habits found in the natural world, topics that Rossellini both explains and enacts in a disarming, dare-to-be-goofy fashion that blends earnestness and puckishness. *Feb. 21. ArtsEmerson and World Music/CRASHarts. At Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston. 617-824-8400, www.artsemerson.org*

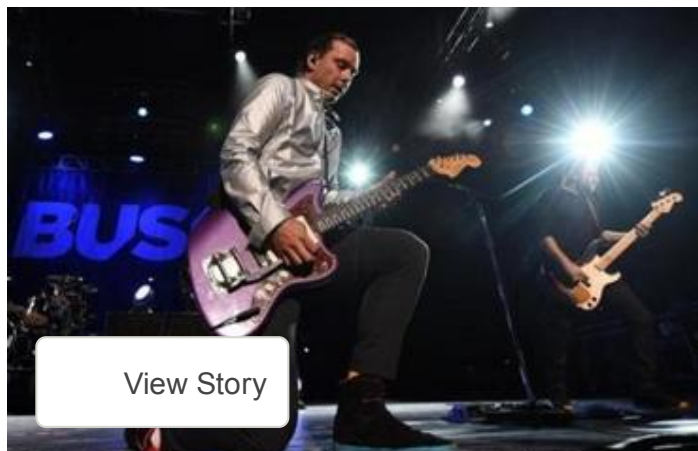


THE SECOND GIRL Boston-based Ronan Noone's stirring new drama takes place

Eugene O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night." However, the focus this time is not on the Tyrone family but on their two Irish immigrant servants and their American chauffeur. With his compassionate but unflinching examination of the choices made and not made by this trio — and of the complicated relationship many of us have with the places we come from, immigrants or not — Noone forces us to think hard about the meaning of that most charged and multifaceted of all words: home. Incisively directed by Campbell Scott. *Through Feb. 21. Huntington Theatre Company, at Wimberly Theatre, Calderwood Pavilion, Boston Center for the Arts. 617-266-0800, www.huntingtontheatre.org*

DON AUCOIN

THE KING OF SECOND AVENUE This new klezmer musical from American Repertory Theater founder Robert Brustein, with a score by New England Conservatory's Hankus Netsky, is loosely based on an 1893 satire by British humorist Israel Zangwill, but with its setting transferred from late-18th-century London to 1960s Manhattan, it pays handsome, and humorous, tribute to the Lower East Side's Yiddish theater. Netsky's score is infectious; the comedy is broad and mild-mannered, but when the seven actors form a khosidl kickline, it's hard not to clap along. *Through March 1. New Repertory Theatre, at Charles Mosesian Theater, Arsenal Center for the Arts, Watertown. 617-923-8487, www.newrep.org*



The week ahead: Music

Critic's picks for noteworthy pop and rock concerts in Boston and the surrounding area this week.

Boston-area nightlife

Local events

Mark your calendar

FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS (PARTS 1, 2 & 3) This trilogy of 50-minute plays from Suzan-Lori Parks represents the beginning of a projected nine-part epic about what it means to be free, and what it means to be true. Parts 1-3 are set during the Civil War, as Hero goes off to fight with his master, leaving wife Penny behind with their friend Homer. Parks may draw on the “Odyssey” for her plot, but her characters are timeless, not least of them Hero’s dog, and this production is both well directed and engagingly acted. *Through March 1. American Repertory Theater, at Loeb Drama Center, Cambridge. 617-547-8300, www.americanrepertorytheater.org*

THE WIZ The 1975 Tony-winning musical adaptation of L. Frank Baum’s “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” gets a typically professional production from Fiddlehead Theatre Company, with a believably teenage Dorothy in Berklee College of Music sophomore Quiana Holmes. But what’s original and magical here is the concept: wheels everywhere, from the whirling tornado to disco mirror balls to cogs and gears and clock faces. Throw in fine performances from the entire cast (including cairn terrier Dusty as Toto) and it’s no problem to ease on down the yellow-brick road. *Through Feb. 22. Fiddlehead Theatre Company at the Strand Theatre, Dorchester. 617-229-6494, www.fiddleheadtheatre.com* JEFFREY GANTZ

UNCLE JACK Playwright and director Michael Hammond strikes a powerful emotional chord in his extraordinary adaptation of Chekhov’s “Uncle Vanya.” Reset in the Berkshires, at the crumbling estate that is home to the Fox Hollow Theater Company, the play has a breathtaking sense of immediacy and urgency. “Uncle Jack” not only taps into the brilliant balance of pathos and humor at the heart of Chekhov’s tale, the combination of script, direction, performances, and design all work together to create an evening of theater that is truly transforming. *Through March 1. Boston Center for American Performance and Boston Playwrights’ Theatre, at Lane-Comley Studio 210 through March 1. 617-933-8600, www.bu.edu/cfa/bcap*

DISNEY ON ICE: FROZEN A cleverly edited ice dancing version of the blockbuster film that captures the personalities of its main characters while working in some impressive skating routines. All of the key scenes and songs are here, but this show never sags under the weight of delivering all the bells and whistles of the film. And best of all, it satisfies the avid fan while entertaining their adult chaperones. *Through Feb. 22. At TD Garden. 800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com* TERRY BYRNE

Dance

URBANITY DANCE World Music/CRASHarts gives this ambitious Boston company a well-deserved boost. Founded six years ago by director Betsi Graves, the troupe presents three Boston premieres, including Houston choreographer Andy Noble’s “Photo Box D” and Graves’s “theyfell,” which uses specially-designed infrared lighting technology. *Feb. 20-21, \$36-\$40. Institute of Contemporary Art. 617-876-4275, www.worldmusic.org*

WONDERTWINS AT OBERON The theatrical hin-hon routines of Roxbury-born

everywhere from New York's famed Apollo Theater to commercial videos to Tony Williams's "Urban Nutcracker." Oberon offers a rare, one-night-only performance of the award-winning red-gloved duo's "To Hip-Hop, With Love." *Feb. 25, 7:30, \$10-\$20. Oberon, Cambridge. 617-496-8004, www.americanrepertorytheater.org/oberon*

THE GREAT BURLESQUE EXHIBITION Grab your tassels and head to Cambridge. This three-day shindig is the Holy Grail for local burlesque fans, bringing together a host of guest performers, teachers, and enthusiastic fans for all things risqué. The centerpiece performance is Saturday night's "The Main Event," a competition among dancers in categories ranging from "Best Solo Performer" to "Most Humorous." *Feb. 21, 8 p.m., \$20-\$50. Hyatt Regency, Cambridge. 800-838-3006, www.brownpapertickets.com*

JOSÉ MATEO BALLET THEATRE With his current program, "Works of Love," veteran choreographer Mateo sets his sights on the shifting dynamics of romance. The production includes the recent "Released" (2014), along with one of Mateo's oldest and most romantic works, "Schubert Adagio" (1991), and the social dance-inspired "Danzones Balleticos" (2004), which reflects the choreographer's return to his Cuban roots. *Through Feb. 22, \$42. Sanctuary Theatre, Cambridge. 617-354-7467, www.ballettheatre.org*

KAREN CAMPBELL

Galleries

ROBERT FEINTUCH In frothy paintings that conjure Gothic renderings of heaven and the slapstick of "Tom and Jerry" cartoons, Feintuch explores the tender, often comically bittersweet intersections of sacred and profane, eternity and mortality. *Through March 17. Miller Yezerski Gallery, 460 Harrison Ave. 617-262-0550, www.milleryezerskigallery.com*

DAVID NAMHON KIM: HUSK Kim introduces living organisms into his digital and sculptural practices. Here, artful prints are the byproduct of the maturation of fruit flies, and butterflies develop inside a silk and burlap chute. *Through March 20. Yellow Peril Gallery, 60 Valley St., Providence. 401-861-1535, www.yellowperilgallery.com*

ANDREW MASULLO: RECENT PAINTINGS Masullo's colorful paintings juggle offbeat shapes, creating odd rhythms and a sense of something internal playing out in paint. Forms jostle as they strive for a balance that often feels precarious. *Through March 14. Steven Zevitas Gallery, 450 Harrison Ave. 617-778-5265, www.stevenzevitasgallery.com*

CATE McQUAID

Museums

sculptor, painter, printmaker, and poet, who is based in Tehran and Vancouver. *Through June 7. Davis Museum of Art, Wellesley College, Wellesley. 781-283-2051, www.wellesley.edu/davismuseum*

ROMAN IN THE PROVINCES: ART ON THE PERIPHERY OF

EMPIRE Examining interactions between Imperial Rome and local cultures in Gaul, Britain, Syria, Egypt, and elsewhere through a wide array of artifacts, many of them from Yale University excavations, and rarely displayed before. *Through May 31. McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College. 617-552-8100, www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/artmuseum*

COURT LADIES OR PIN UP GIRLS? CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE

MFA, BOSTON A concise but brilliant show exploring sensuous, and at times frankly erotic, content in Chinese art across the centuries. The exhibit hinges on the MFA's great but rarely exhibited 12th-century masterpiece, "Court Ladies Preparing Newly Woven Silk," more correctly titled "Picture of Pounding Silk" – which, it turns out, was a common allusion to sexual intercourse in 12th-century China. *Through July 19. Museum of Fine Arts. 617-267-9300, www.mfa.org*

RAPHAEL: THE COWPERMADONNA A great Renaissance painting of the Madonna and Child by Raphael is on loan to Worcester from the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. It hangs in a small room beside the Worcester Art Museum's own "Northbrook Madonna," which came into the collection as a Raphael, but is now believed to be by another hand, or hands. *Through Sept. 27. Worcester Art Museum, Worcester. 508-799-4406, www.worcesterart.org*

SEBASTIAN SMEE

Kerry Jameson: The Remade Series: Boston

This London-based ceramicist steeps her figurative sculptures in sense of place. In Boston, she fashioned works responding to area museum collections, broke them, and built them back up with local materials and objects. (Pictured: "Donkey.") *Feb. 21-March 15. Lacoste Gallery, 25 Main St., Concord. 978-369-3375, www.lacostegallery.com* CATE McQUAID

Don Aucoin can be reached at aucoin@globe.com.

0 COMMENTS

Top 10 Trending Articles

Plainville teen charged with manslaughter in friend's suicide

Winter's relentless attack on Boston's homes have given owners a new condition: Snow Compulsive Disorder--Snow C.D.

Baker's point man on MBTA review resigns amid questions about his finances

Boston reveals five schools slated to close

Two more snowstorms expected to hit Mass.

Leonard Nimoy, 83; Spock on 'Star Trek' became a cultural icon

Will Boston's crazy snowfalls make people leave?

Revamped Celtics are growing by the day

Female lawyers challenge 'invasive' searches at prisons

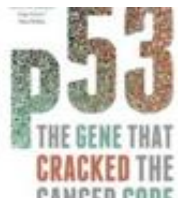
Jeb Bush gets booed at CPAC, highlighting conservative anger

More in Arts



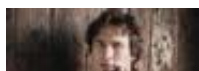
Why texting your parents is, IMHO, perfectly fine

Provided one's parents (and one's parents' thumbs) are up to it, texting can actually help foster the closeness of family relationships.

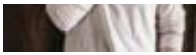


'p53' by Sue Armstrong

In her new book "p53: The Gene That Cracked the Cancer Code," Armstrong chronicles of a breakthrough discovery in the battle against the disease.



Nichols balances country tradition, modern sound



A chat with country singer Joe Nichols, who plays the House of Blues in support of latest album, “Crickets.”



Robison, Brubaker bring vast, subtle Feldman to Gardner

Flutist Paula Robison and keyboardist Bruce Brubaker will play “For Christian Wolff” four times in March at the Gardner.



Critic’s Corner: What’s on TV this weekend

Sarah Rodman’s guide for the weekend, including “Good Witch” Saturday on Hallmark.



Bill O’Reilly controversy spotlights partisan media’s growth

With wall-to-wall opinion shows, it sometimes seems that everything but the weather is processed through an ideological filter.



Soul survivor LaVette pours her life into song

A decade into a renaissance that established her as one of the greats of soul music, Bettye LaVette is relishing a new album, “Worthy.”



Oscar acceptance speeches: let ’em talk, already!

Permit me to stake out an unpopular position: People should be allowed to say whatever they want.



At 44, with a record six Tony Awards to her name, McDonald ranks among the greatest theater artists of her generation.



Schaffer spirited away by a play 20 years in the making

Mat Schaffer turned his fascination with the paranormal into the play “Simon Says: A Dramatized Séance.”



Two shows look at art and war

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Harvard’s Peabody Museum look at art and war.



Two shows look at maps both real and imagined

Shows at the Boston Public Library and Harvard look at maps both real and imagined.



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Stand-up comedy is a rush for Pats’ Jonas Gray

Patriots’ running back Jonas Gray has dabbled in stand-up comedy since his college days at Notre Dame.



There's a terrific popcorn movie here — a con-game romantic comedy that bubbles along on a playful high.



In 'She's Beautiful,' Dore affirms energy, urgency of activism

It's the '70s passion and sense of purpose that Mary Dore sought to reclaim in her new film, "She's Beautiful When She's Angry."



In 'She's Beautiful,' women fighting their battles

"She's Beautiful When She's Angry" is a celebratory but clear-eyed documentary history of the 1970s women's movement.



'Ballet 422' demonstrates the artistic process

Jody Lee Lipes has achieved an enlightening documentary about the creative process, following the title New York City Ballet production from idea to realization.



'Song of the Sea' animates an Irish legend

"Song of the Sea" is a sweet, aesthetically breathtaking showcase.



'Lazarus Effect' cannot be raised from the dead

The appealing Mark Duplass plays a scientist who discovers that dabbling in life and death is above his pay grade.



