

DANCING WITH THE MISSING El Teatro de la Esperanza and the Mission Cultural Center present Roy Conboy's mystery concerning a woman detective's search for a missing Central American child. Opens Oct. 23. Thurs.-Sun. at 8:30 pm. Through Nov. 8. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St., SF. \$6-\$8. (415) 255-2320.

DEARLY DEPARTED CitiArts Theatre presents David Bottrell and Jessie Jones' comedy about life and love below the Mason-Dixon line. Opens Oct. 23. Tues.-Thurs. at 7 pm; Fri.-Sat. at 8 pm; Sun. at 3 pm. (Call for special Sat. matinees.) Willows Theatre, Willows Shopping Center, 1975 Diamond Blvd., Concord. \$10-\$15. (510) 671-3388 or (510) 762-BASS.

GAUKYA (THE DRESSING ROOM) Theatre of Yugen presents the West Coast premiere of Kunio Shimizu's play exploring the line between life and death/reality and illusion by focusing on a group of actresses making up and rehearsing backstage. Opens Oct. 28. Thurs.-Sat. at 8 pm. Sun. at 3 pm. Through Nov. 15. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa, SF. \$10-\$12; \$15 opening night. (415) 621-0507.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE The Z Collective and Industrial Strength Productions join forces to present an adapted-for-the-times version of Sinclair Lewis' cautionary tale of fascism in America. Opens Oct. 27. Fri.-Mon. at 8 pm. Sun/8 and Sun/15 at 2 pm. Through Nov. 15. Cowell Theatre, Pier 2, Fort Mason, Buchanan at Marina, SF. \$12-\$14. (415) 543-9505.

THE POPE AND THE WITCH A.C.T. presents the American premiere of Italian satirist Dario Fo's political farce about the Vatican public relations types struggling to cope with fallout from a pope on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Opens Oct. 28. Tues.-Sat. at 8 pm, with matinees Wed. and Sat. at 2 pm, Sun. at 3 pm. Through Dec. 19. Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter, SF. \$11-\$36. (415) 749-2ACT or (510) 762-BASS.

THE PRESENT New Langton Arts presents this play by Leslie Scalapino concerning a woman in love with James Dean, who finds herself in a desert where the henna man is being carried in a white cocoon by starving boys (this, according to the author). Opens Oct. 22. Thurs.-Sat. at 8 pm, except Thurs/29 at 9 pm. Through Oct. 31. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom St., SF. \$6. (415) 626-5416.

SADDLE NOOSE Peggy Lee Howe's black comedy about the chain of events triggered by a series of obscene phone calls to a troubled woman. With live slide guitar-playing by Will Knapp. Opens Oct. 21. Thurs.-Sun. at 8 pm. Through Nov. 8. Climate Theatre, 252 9th St., SF. \$11-\$13. (415) 626-9196.

SOLO MIO 3 The last week of this wonderful series of solo performances. Cheryl Marie Wade: Thurs.-Sat. at 8 pm; Sun. at 3 pm. Through Nov. 1. (Braval, 2180 Bryant, SF. \$10-\$12. 415-641-7657). Mac Wellman: Thurs.-Sun. at 8 pm. Through Nov. 1. (Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, SF. \$10. 415-626-3311).

WAITING FOR GODOT The Berkeley Theater Project presents Samuel Beckett's classic (what's it all about, Sam?), directed by Aaron Davidman. Open Oct. 28. Wed., Thurs. and Sun. at 7:30 pm; Sat. at 8 pm. Through Nov. 22. 1414 Walnut, Berk. Call for price. (510) 848-2632.

UBU! (THE THRASH MUSICAL) The New Company offers a wild, weird take on things, asking (and possibly answering) questions like "Can the Statue of Liberty make it as a porno star?" Music by Soma Holiday. 21 and over only. Opens Oct. 22. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30 pm. Through Nov. 7. Brave New World, 1751 Fulton, SF. \$5. (415) 285-6957.

ongoing

THE ADVENTURE OF THE DYING DETECTIVE AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE NOBLE BACHELOR Two one-act plays by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, performed by the Sherlock Holmes Theatre. Fri.-Sat. at 7:30 and 9 pm. Holiday Inn on Union Square, 30th fl., 480 Sutter, SF. \$25. 1-800-677-6540.

franch) and his wife (Loni Ford) gradually come unglued. It should happen this way in real life. Thurs.-Sun. at 8 pm. Through Nov. 1. Holiday Inn Union Square, Sutter and Powell, SF. \$20-\$25. (415) 776-5496 or (510) 762-BASS.

BAR NONE A comedy murder mystery by Rich Baker and Terry Ward in which the audience helps the cast solve the crime. Wed.-Fri. at 8 pm, Sat. at 7 and 9:30 pm. Open-ended. Plush Room, 940 Sutter, SF. \$20-\$22. (415) 885-2800.

BEACH BLANKET BABYLON A musical revue. Wed.-Thurs. at 8 pm, Fri.-Sat. at 8 and 10:30 pm, Sun. at 3 and 7:30 pm. Open-ended. Club Fugazi, 678 Green, SF. \$17-\$40. (415) 421-4222.

BENT Martin Sherman's stirring drama about faith and defiance among homosexuals in Nazi Germany. Wed.-Sat. at 8 pm, with additional performances Sun. at 3 pm, and Sat. at 5 pm. Through Oct. 25. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., SF. \$11-\$17. (415) 861-5079.

BEYOND THERAPY Christopher Durang's comedy about love and psychoanalysis. Thurs.-Sat. at 8 pm. Open-ended. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness, SF. \$19-\$21. (415) 861-8972.

CEREMONIES OF PRAYER San Francisco Performers Theatre presents Evan Blake's play, loosely based on the life of Vincent Van Gogh and his relationship with his brother Theo. Thurs.-Sat. at 8 pm. Through Nov. 14. San Francisco Performers Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C. Buchanan at Marina, SF. \$10-\$12. (415) 346-5550.

A CHORUS LINE The second national tour of the Broadway hit (it had a 15-year run) about the personal and professional struggles of would-be actors and dancers. Tues.-Fri. at 8 pm, Sat. at 2 pm and 8 pm, Sun. at 3 pm and 7 pm. (No performance on Nov. 3). Through Nov. 8. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor St., SF. Call for prices. (510) 762-BASS.

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1821 HAIGHT
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