

► Critic's picks



Joshua Reynolds in *From Parts Unknown*, about the wrestling world.

■ FROM PARTS UNKNOWN...

PLAYWRIGHTS THEATRE CENTRE

8 p.m., runs to Nov. 12

Joshua Reynolds writes and stars in the story of Johnny (The Cad) Cadman, a fictional star of the sham world of professional wrestling, and does a damn fine job of fleshing out the dark side of this dirty little world. Although his ambitions are so big that the play starts to feel like a biopic from the 1940s, it's still a thoroughly interesting journey with Joshua and Johnny (and a strong supporting cast).

— Peter Birnie

■ BORODIN STRING QUARTET

Vancouver Playhouse
Nov. 15, 8 p.m.

The original Borodin Quartet recorded the first-ever Shostakovich string quartet cycle even before the composer completed his last instalment. The group's latest avatar still includes cellist Valentin Berlinsky, one of the players who founded the quartet in 1945. Vancouver is lucky enough to be a stop on the Quartet's 60th anniversary tour. This Tuesday we'll hear the Eighth and 10th quartets — in a living performance tradition that goes straight back to the composer himself.

— David Gordon Duke

■ MEREDITH MONK

Chan Centre

Nov. 12, 8 p.m.

If you didn't happen to be at New York's Carnegie Hall last week, you missed *Making Music*, a four-hour marathon concert with "composer/singer/director/choreographer/dancer" Meredith Monk. But you can still catch the '60s icon (who seems to like the epithet "one of America's coolest composers") with her vocal ensemble at the Chan this Saturday, celebrating 40 years of performance

— David Gordon Duke

■ CIRCLE OF COMPASSION

West Vancouver United Church

Nov. 11, 1 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral
Nov. 11, 8 p.m.

For 13 years the Chor Leoni Men's Choir has provided a musical focus for our yearly Remembrance Day solemnities. This Friday they sing of conflict, loss, and compassion in a contemplative repertoire that ranges from Schubert to Penderecki in two Vancouver area programs, plus a run-out to Victoria on the 13th.

— David Gordon Duke

■ THEATRE

OPENING

Ten Little Indians Sidekick Players Club presents Agatha Christie's intricately turned murder mystery. *Genesis Theatre, 5005 45th Ave., Ladner, Nov. 10-19, 8 pm, \$12/10, 604-943-1127.*

Dear Santa Santa Claus tries to fulfill a child's Christmas wish while his staff attempts to overcome a supply shortage at the North Pole in family comedy by Norm Foster, presented by First Impressions Theatre. *Deep Cove Shaw Theatre, 4360 Gallant, N Van, Nov. 10-26, 8 pm, 604-929-9456.*

Letters in Wartime Play follows two lovers through a series of letters — his about combat flying and wartime England, and hers concerning overcoming stereotypes while learning new skills in Canada, presented by Ribbit Productions. *Havana Theatre, 1212 Commercial, Nov. 11, 2 pm, pwc, 604-255-5277.*

A Common Man's Guide to Loving Women What do men really talk about? You'd be surprised. Denis Simpson directs this Firehall Arts Centre production, which tells the story of four young men who come together to celebrate an upcoming wedding. *Firehall Arts Centre, 280 E. Cordova, Nov. 11-Dec. 3, 8 pm, select matinees 2 pm and 1 pm, \$10-24, 604-689-0926.*

Cinderella Pumpkin carriages, ball gowns, love at first sight, evil step-families and glass slippers: it's Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical, presented by Footlight Theatre. *Shad-bolt Centre, Deer Lake Park, Burnaby, Nov. 11-26, 8 pm, matinees Sun. 2 pm, \$13-26, 604-205-3000*

La Ronde Theatre at UBC presents Arthur Schnitzler's darkly comic tale of forbidden sex that scandalized Europe at the close of the 18th century. *Telus Studio Theatre, UBC Campus, Gate 3 on NW Marine, Nov. 16-26, 7:30 pm, \$10-18, 604-822-2678.*

A Number Caryl Churchill's disturbing new play about human cloning, directed by David Bloom. *Playwrights Theatre Centre, 1398 Cartwright, Nov. 16-26 8 pm, 2 pm Sun. 20, 10 pm Sat. 26, pwc, \$20, 604-643-0553*

Don't Dress for Dinner Hit French farce by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawdon. *Presentation House, 333 Chesterfield, Nov. 16-Dec. 3, \$18/12, 604-990-3474.*

THIS WEEK

Boygroove/The Canada Show Comedy doublebill presented by PKF Productions (One Man Star Wars Trilogy) features a parody of the boy band phenomenon, by Chris Craddock, to Nov. 20, 9 pm, matinee Sat. 2 pm, and the complete history of Canada in two acts, Nov. 10-19, 7 pm, matinee Sun. 2 pm; *Waterfront Theatre, 1410 Cartwright, Granville Island, 604-257-0366.*

Cabaret Uncle Randy Productions presents Tony Award-winning musical about underground club scene in pre-Nazi Berlin, starring Bobby Bruce (of Nearly Neil fame) as the Master of Ceremonies. *Centennial Theatre, 333 Chesterfield, N Van, to Nov. 19, 8 pm, matinee Sun. 2 pm, \$23-28, 604-984-4484*

Little Mercy's First Murder Touchstone presents film noir musical based on an NY crime scene photographer. Book and lyrics by Morwyn Brebner with music by Jay Turvey and Paul Sportelli, who pay tribute to '30s and '40s music. *Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables, to Nov. 12, 8 pm, matinee Sun., 2 pm, \$22/18, 604-280-3311.*

From Parts Unknown... Ringside look

at the world of professional wrestling. Craig Laphorne directs Peter Grier and Gerry Mackay. *Playwrights Theatre Centre, 1398 Cartwright, to Nov. 12, 8 pm, \$15/12, 604-257-0366.*

The Elephant Man Five Bob Equity Co-op sets Bernard Pomerance's symbolic masterpiece. *Pacific Theatre, 420 W. 12th, to Nov. 12, 8 pm, \$14-28, 604-731-5518*

Alley Cats, the Musical Campy musical directed by Michael Fera, with choreography by Jeff Hyslop. *Vogue Theatre, to Nov. 12, 604-280-4444.*

Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged Older and wider, this time the Mom's the Word Collective shares tales of teenagers and torment. Roy Surette is the director. *Granville Island Stage, 1585 Johnston, held-over to Nov. 19, 8 pm (except Tues., 7:30 pm), matinees Wed., Sat., 2 pm, \$25-35.50, 604-280-3311.*

■ DANCE

THIS WEEK

Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company Showcase of eight dance styles of Ukraine. *Bell Performing Arts Centre, Surrey, Nov. 11, 8 pm, 604-507-6355.*

Guadalquivir Flamenco Rosario is joined by Spanish guests Miguel Angel and Momi de Cadiz as well as Montreal-based dancer Myriam Allard for a program inspired by southern Spain's longest river. *Norman Rothstein Theatre, Nov. 11-13, 8 pm, \$35/30, 604-280-4444.*

Ballet British Columbia One of its most successful ballets, artistic director John Alleyne's *Carmina Burana* smolders with passion; it's about sex, love, life, death, lust, debauchery — the cycles of human life; Carl Orff's score is performed by a chamber orchestra and choir.

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