

# Theatre

By Jason Sherman

Note: many theatres offer half-price tickets through T.O. Tix (208 Yonge St., 536-6468).

## Openings and Previews

**Forbidden Broadway Strikes Back.** And so does Marlene Smith, the woman who brought *Cats* to Toronto and is often credited, if that's the right word, with starting Toronto on the road to megamusicals. She's producing this gentle parody of Broadway tuners (the *Rent* takeoff is called *Rant*—that kind of thing) written by Gerard Alessandrini, directed by Philip George. Starts June 1. \$40-\$50 (dinner and show). Limelight Dinner Theatre, 2026 Yonge St. (482-5200).

**Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde.** Anyone who doubts the power of *The New York Times* hasn't heard of this first play by Moisés Kaufman. The documentary, stitched together from trial transcripts and other material related to Wilde's arrest and imprisonment, went

from off-off-Broadway anonymity to off-Broadway sell-outs following a *Times* rave. The all-Canuck cast features Paul Miller as Wilde, Craig Erickson as Lord Alfred Douglas. Previews begin June 8; opens June 25. \$29-\$45. Canadian Stage Theatre, 26 Berkeley St. (872-1111).

**Satellite.** Deanne Taylor's cabarets, with their mix of live and videotaped performances, are among the ongoing treasures of Toronto theatre. Each instalment centres on the political event of the moment—an election here, a referendum there—but in this case, the irony machine is being turned on the relationship between politics and the media. With Alan Burke, Janet Burke and John Blackwood. May 30 to June 14. \$10-\$24. VideoCabaret at Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. (504-9971).

**Suburban Motel.** Kristen Thomson, who opened George F. Walker's six-play series with her blistering performance in *Problem Child*, returns to close it out (in the same role) in *Risk Everything*. June 11 to July 26. Featuring *Loretta*, the fifth play in the series, runs till June 21. \$16-\$23. Factory Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. (504-9971).

**Shaw Festival.** You get the point very quickly in Merrill Denison's *Brothers in Arms* (in previews from June 26)—that country folk ain't what city folk think they is—but it keeps going anyway, like a skit in search of a punch line. John Galsworthy's *Joy* (in previews from June 18) gives young Severn Thompson a chance to shine as the teenage daughter of divorced parents; there's lots of stuff here, too, about gold-mine speculation, which'll be good for a few knowing laughs (you do remember Bre-X, don't you?). The end-of-the-century's love affair with Oscar Wilde continues with *Lady Windermere's Fan* (in previews from June 26), which has some of his choicest epigrams ("What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing") interrupted by a melodrama about a young woman who suspects her husband of having an affair. Oddest choice of the year has to be Shaw's *Passion, Poison and Petri-*

—Hugh Graham

*Party Monster* is among the 217 films showing at Inside Out Lesbian and Gay Film + Video Festival. May 21 to 31. Lumiere/Cumberland Cinema, 159 Cumberland St. (925-9872).

*faction* (in previews from June 19), a parody of murder mysteries, like the ones the festival does on a regular basis; the surprise is that it's pretty damn funny. **Continuing:** A composer falls in love in London in *A Foggy Day* (through Nov. 1), words and music by the Gershwins. Christopher Newton stages Christopher Fry's verse drama *The Lady's Not for Burning* (through Sept. 27). Michael Ball and Jennifer Phipps play out a blackmail-and-murder story in *The Shop at Sly Corner* (through Oct. 31). Kelli Fox is the salvationist **Major Barbara** (through Nov. 1). Neil Munro does his thing with Kaufman and Hart's *You Can't Take It With You* (through Nov. 1). \$32-\$65. Niagara-on-the-Lake (800-511-7429).

**Stratford Festival.** Famous plays; famous people. Diana Leblanc directs Chekhov's masterful study of the end of the aristocracy. *The Cherry Orchard* (previews begin June 10; opens June 24) with Martha Henry and Geordie Johnson. Tom McCamus, Stephen Ouimette and Benedict Campbell make *Julius Caesar* (in previews; opens June 1) a gotta-see; staged by Douglas Campbell. *Man of La Mancha* (in previews; opens June 3) has Juan Chioran as Don Quixote, Cynthia Dale as Aldonza, and a budget the size of some Third World nations; Susan H. Schulman directs. The great Douglas Rain plays Sir Thomas More in *A Man for All Seasons* (in previews; opens June 5), defying the will of Henry VIII (Ben Campbell) and, who knows, maybe that of the director (Marti Maraden) as well. William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* (in previews; opens June 6) features Cynthia Dale and Trish Lindstrom. Stratford becomes the out-of-town tryout for *Much Ado About Nothing* (in previews; opens June 4), which heads to New York in November, with Martha Henry and Brian Bedford. Janet Wright directs Lally Cadeau in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (in previews; opens June 2). Brian Bedford reunites with designer Ming Cho Lee (they did *Waiting for Godot* together) for *The Winter's Tale* (previews begin June 9; opens June 23), featuring Wayne Best as a beastly king who must control his temper.



This Month