



## now onstage

### *The Children's Hour*

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY THEATRE, DRAKE CENTER, 1849 CANNON DR. (614-292-2295, [WWW.THEATRE.OSU.EDU](http://WWW.THEATRE.OSU.EDU))

» A troubling student accuses two teachers of being lesbians in the Lillian Hellman drama. Though controversial in its 1934 Broadway debut, the play — opening tonight — is being revived by director Lesley Ferris with an eye toward modern relevance.

**SHOWTIMES** » 7:30 tonight through Saturday night and 3 p.m. Sunday; and May 10-12 and 17-19

**TICKETS** » \$15, or \$11 for senior citizens



From *The Children's Hour*

### *Agony Casino*

MAYHEM & MYSTERY, SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE, 397 W. BROAD ST. (614-464-0143, [WWW.MAYHEMMYSTERY.COM](http://WWW.MAYHEMMYSTERY.COM))

» Gamblers. Secretive characters. Murder. Whodunit? Take a gamble on the Mayhem & Mystery presentation of an interactive puzzle set in a casino.

**SHOWTIMES** » 7 p.m. Tuesdays (seating at 6:45) through June 26

**TICKETS** » \$23.95

### *Spring Fever*

SHADOWBOX, EASTON TOWN CENTER (614-416-7625, [WWW.SHADOWBOXCABARET.COM](http://WWW.SHADOWBOXCABARET.COM))

» The revue parodies Britney Spears, Ryan Seacrest and other denizens of American celebrity culture. Laced with profanity, it's meant for mature audiences.

**SHOWTIMES** » 7:30 p.m. Thursdays and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through June 9

**TICKETS** » \$30, or \$20 for students and senior citizens



In the cast of *Family Portrait*, from left: Stephen Woosley, Vicki Andronis, Josh Kessler and Jim Azelvandre

MADLAB THEATRE

## ROULETTE FESTIVAL TO TAKE AUDIENCES FOR SHORT SPINS

BY MICHAEL GROSSBERG | THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Start with a dose of foreshadowing, sprinkle in a few flashbacks and top it off with some foolishness.

The three F's will provide the framework for MadLab Theatre's eighth annual Roulette Festival of short plays.

The 11-show lineup — presented by theme over three days — covers a wide spectrum of subjects and presentation styles.

"Every year we try to find a group of plays that are interesting with a good mix of drama, satire and parody," Managing Director Andy Batt said.

MadLab, a Generation-X troupe, often stages new works with a provocative or satirical edge.

The 2007 Roulette series, which will begin tonight and run through May 26, encompasses 14 playwrights from nine states. The roster of shows:

“Every year we try to find a group of plays that are interesting, with a good mix of drama, satire and parody.”

**ANDY BATT**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
MADLAB THEATRE

### 'FORESHADOWS'

Opening tonight, the three plays that make up the evening are loosely tied by foreshadowing, the technique of hinting what's to come:

» *Tangled* (by Terence Anthony of Los Angeles) focuses on a drug-addicted woman struggling with her family.

» *The Apple* (Jim Azelvandre of Columbus) centers on two strangers eating lunch on a park bench.

» *Please Remove This Stuffed Animal From My Head* (Crystal Jackson of Houston) creates a fanciful metaphor commenting on the politics of abortion — “an absurdist parable with a twist,” director David Thonnings said.

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# ROULETTE

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## 'FLASHBACKS'

Opening Friday, the four plays insert past events into the present-day order of a narrative.

» *Child's Play* (Ry Herman and Kolby Granville of Tucson, Ariz.) involves children's toys and a man getting married.

» *The Cat in Her Head* (Bonnie Lake of Newburyport, Mass.) profiles a daughter coping with her mother's Alzheimer's disease.

» *Saver* (Mark Harvey Levine of Pasadena, Calif.) spotlights an old man who isn't "all there" anymore.

» *On the Porch One Crisp Spring Morning* (Alex Dremmen of Philadelphia) is a comedy about a mother and daughter who work for the same government agency.

## 'FOOLISHNESS'

Opening Saturday, the four productions deal with people doing "very stupid" things.

» *Hush Little Baby* (Montserrat Mendez of Newark, N.J.) centers on two new parents unable to find a name for their newborn.



Stephen Woosley and Melissa Bair in *Hush Little Baby*

MADLAB THEATRE

» *Impulsive* (Nicole Greevy, Uma Incrocci and Erica Jensen of New York) is sparked by an impulsive act

during a dinner shared by two couples.

"It's cute and funny, but it also raises the issue of

whether people have impulses or whether everything is pre-mediated," co-director Stephen Woosley said.

## at a glance

### MadLab Theatre Roulette Festival

105 N. Grant Ave. (614-221-5418, [www.madlab.net](http://www.madlab.net))

"FORESHADOWS" » 8 tonight and May 11, 19 and 24; and 2 p.m. May 26

"FLASHBACKS" » 8 p.m. Friday and May 12, 17 and 25; and 4 p.m. May 26

"FOOLISHNESS" » 8 p.m. Saturday and May 10, 18 and 26

TICKETS » \$10 to \$15, or \$8 for students and senior citizens; \$6 for members

» *The Inciting Incident* (Mark Cornell of Chapel Hill, N.C.) focuses on a struggling screenwriter who is convinced that his neighbors are serial killers.

» *Family Portrait* (Tom Hoefner of Long Island City, N.Y.) is a comedy about eccentric parents who inform their son of a surprising decision. [nugrossberg@dispatch.com](mailto:nugrossberg@dispatch.com)

## other options



### ONLINE CONTENT

For a broader schedule of events, visit [Dispatch.com/weekender](http://Dispatch.com/weekender).

### Bread and Circus Theatre Company

TRIPLEFORCE ARTISTIC CENTER,  
3979 PARKWAY LANE, HILLIARD  
(614-470-4895)

» *Pygmalion*, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday (\$8 and \$10)

### Center Stage Theatre

AXIS NIGHTCLUB & THEATRE,  
775 N. HIGH ST. (614-306-0447)

» *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday (\$12.50, or \$50 a table)

### Cloak & Dagger

#### Dinner Theatre

1048 MORSE RD. (614-523-9347)

» *Murder in the Heirs*, 8 p.m. Fridays and 7 p.m. Saturdays through June (\$39.95, including dinner)

### Licking County Players

131 W. MAIN ST., NEWARK  
(740-349-2287)

» *Something's Afoot*, 8 tonight through Saturday night and 2 p.m.

Sunday (\$7 to \$12)

### Little Theatre Off Broadway

3981 BROADWAY, GROVE CITY  
(614-875-3919)

» *Fiddler on the Roof*, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. Sundays through May 12 (\$9 and \$11)

### Mershon Auditorium

1871 N. HIGH ST. (614-292-3535)

» *Goodbye Mr. Mullin*, 2 and 4 p.m. Sunday (\$8 to \$14)

### Palace Theatre

34 W. BROAD ST. (614-469-0939)

» *Love in the Nick of Time*, 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday (\$36.50 to \$42.40 at the Ohio Theatre box office)

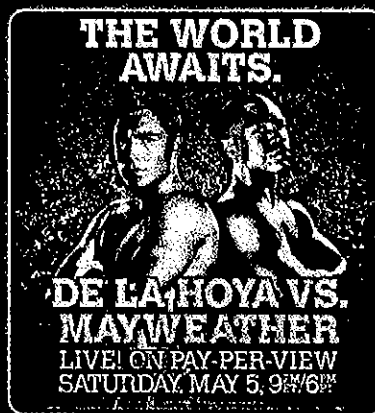
### Theatre Lab

BUCKEYE HALL OF FAME CAFE,  
1421 OLIENTANGY RIVER RD.  
(614-783-2208)

» *Something Old, Something New, Someone Cold, Someone Blue*, 7:30 p.m. May 11 to Aug. 9 (\$25, including dinner)

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