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Stage Listings

Stage listings are compiled by Cheryl Eddy. Performance times may change; call venues to confirm. Reviewers are Robert Avila, Rita Felciano, Lara Shalson, and Chloe Veltman. See [this page](#) for information on how to submit items to the listings.

theater

Opening

So in Love: The Songs of Cole Porter *New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness; 861-8972, www.nctcsf.org. \$20-25 (preview, \$15). Previews Fri/23, 8pm. Opens Sat/24, 8pm. Runs Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Through Aug 1.* Meg Mackay and Billy Philadelphia perform a celebration of Porter's songs.

Bay Area

The Mysterious Mr. Looney *Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berk; (510) 558-1381, www.centralworks.org. \$8-20 sliding scale. Opens Thurs/24, 8pm. Runs Thurs-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 5pm. Through Aug 29.* Central Works performs a collaboratively developed play about the true identity of Shakespeare.

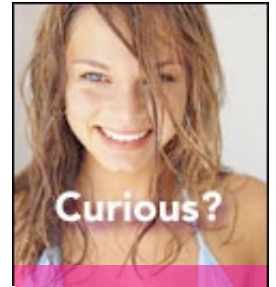
Ongoing

Are We Almost There? *Shelton Theatre, 533 Sutter; 345-7575. \$22-24. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Open-ended.* Travel is the theme of this musical comedy revue.

***Becca and Heidi** *Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy; (510) 612-1074, www.theshee.org. \$15-20. Thurs-Sat, 8:30pm. Through Aug 7.* Heidi is the kind of girl who saves babies from burning cars and sets lab animals free. Becca is the kind of girl who smokes cigarettes and watches TV. Unlikely as it sounds, Becca and Heidi are one and the same person. As in *The*



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Stevenson's famous tale about a conflicted soul, Sharon Eberhardt's offbeat new play explores the highs and lows of human behavior. But instead of pitting good against evil, Eberhardt's central character isn't that bad at all, even at her worst. At times gaping incredulously like a cartoon goldfish while at others looking as self-possessed as Lara Croft, performer Lindsay Anderson expertly milks the bathos at the heart of Eberhardt's play. With Virginia Reed's compact direction and an incisive use of light and sound, the Shee Theatre Company's production makes us believe that we're witnessing two sides of one person, even as the person in question would have us believe we're watching two. (Veltman)

'Comedy on the Square' *Shelton Theatre, 533 Sutter; 522-8900. Most shows \$15.* Upcoming performances: Oakland Playhouse Improv Troupe (Fri, 10pm, through July 30); "An Evening with Johnny Steele" (Sat/24, 8 and 10pm); "A Celebration of Laughs," with Fred Anderson (Sun, 3 and 7pm, ongoing); "Uphill Both Ways" sketch comedy (Sun, 8:30pm, through Sept 5).

Disney's The Lion King *Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market; 512-7770, 356-LION, www.bestofbroadway-sf.com. \$26-82. Extended run: Tues-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 2pm); Sun, 1 and 6:30pm. Through Sept 10. Starting Oct 13, runs Wed-Sat and Oct 26, 8pm (also Wed and Sat, 2pm); Sun, 1 and 6:30pm (no 6:30pm show on Oct 31). Through Nov 21.* Apparently director and designer Julie Taymor didn't win those Tonys for nothing. The Bay Area premiere of her staged interpretation of *Disney's The Lion King*, courtesy of Best of Broadway, works so well you're liable to forgive the residual Disney that clings to this singular spectacle. The plot – a lion cub grows up in exile until he can assume his rightful place on the usurped throne of his late father – must be familiar to nearly everyone by now; the characters are the stock ones recycled by Disney. They're animated, however, by a superb cast. (Avila)

Eclipsed *Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D, Marina at Laguna; (510) 644-9940, www.wildeirish.org. \$15-20. Wed/21-Sat/24, 8pm; Sun/25, 3pm.* Tens of thousands of unwed Irish mothers were locked away as virtual slaves in commercial laundries run by the Catholic Church – not centuries ago but as recently as 1996, the year the last Magdalene Asylum was closed. At a time when patriarchal absolutism under church and state is all the rage, playwright Patricia Burke Brogan weaves an affecting, instructive tale

from this harrowing subject. An Irish American (Erin Daly) searches for her mother among the laundry-room memorabilia of an asylum, recalling the lives of five women (Daly, Rica Anderson, Lizzie Calogero, Allison Kenny, and Sandra Schlechter) imprisoned there under the strict eye of a mother superior (Breda Courtney), and the yielding sympathy of a novice nun (Lauren Bloom). Each of these "unwanted" women deals distinctly with the cruel circumscription of their lives (while onetime boyfriends share none of the cost of violating the same commandment), but in the mixture of fantasy and rebellion a compassionate sisterhood arises, especially as one woman's girlish daydream of wedding Elvis – a richly ironic comment on nuns as the brides of Christ – inspires a makeshift "marriage" ceremony. Despite an awkward opening scene, Gemma Whelan's sharp direction and admirable ensemble acting mark Wilde Irish Productions' engaging Bay Area premiere. (Avila)

Eve Ensler's *The Good Body* *Geary Theater, 415 Geary; 749-2228, www.act-sfbay.org. \$11-68. Extended run: Wed/21-Sat/24, July 27-31, 8pm (also Wed/21, Sat/24, July 28, and 31, 2pm); Sun, 2pm. Through Aug 1.* You could argue no one understands the body politic like writer-performer-activist Eve Ensler, creator of the remarkably successful *Vagina Monologues*, whose latest work examines the female obsession with physical perfection. Amid Robert Brill's impressive scenic design – which turns the stage into an abstract representation of fashion consciousness: a photo shoot as spectator sport, with a lone ghost-white female mannequin in the grandstand to the right of the stage – Ensler details a personal quest to understand her own fixation on a less-than-*Cosmo*-ready belly, describing and acting out interviews with a variety of women, including Helen Gurley Brown, on their relationship to their bodies. Smoothly directed by Peter Askin, the show works best when it holds a mirror up to the macabre contortions, physical and mental, women undergo to achieve a pervasive yet elusive idea of beauty. But Ensler's own political formulations come across as both strained and unsatisfying, especially in regard to the Indian and Afghan women she encounters, where her insistence on fitting them into pat existential epiphanies seems to obscure at least as much as it elucidates. (Avila)

The Fantasticks *Playhouse, 536 Sutter; 677-9596, www.sfplayhouse.org. \$30. Extended run: Wed-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 3pm). Through Aug 21.* S.F. Playhouse wraps up a terrific debut season with Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt's 1960 musical, a lyrical crowd-pleaser derived from Edmond

Rostand's satire of young love, *Les romanesques*. Dianna Shuster directs a winsome ensemble cast in a stripped down plotline that gives full absurdist play to the story of a young couple (Mark Farrell and Katy Stephan, in two charmingly spot-on performances) who secretly woo over the wall (Shaye Troha, in the role of all-purpose and all-seeing Mute) built between their backyards by their quarreling fathers (Louis Parnell and Brian Scott). In fact, their ardor is being intentionally stoked by their colluding parents (who realize, as one of the show's lively songs has it, that children only do what you tell them not to). (Avila)

***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change** *Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter; 1-877-771-6900, www.tickets.com. \$40-55. Tues-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 5 and 9pm; Sun, 2 and 7pm. Through Sept 5.* If the conceit of off Broadway's longest-running musical (a comic look at the roller-coaster ride of modern heterosexual romance) sounds less than original, its execution feels surprisingly fresh thanks to a fine balance of comedy, tunefulness, and charm. Amounting to a series of short sketches with titles like "Single Man Drought," "A Stud and a Babe," and "Men Who Talk and the Women Who Pretend They're Listening," the breezy book and consistently clever lyrics of Joe DiPietro (*Memphis*), together with engaging music from Jimmy Roberts (pleasing rendered by a piano-and-violin duet), serve as an ideal foundation for a sharp and versatile four-person cast. (Avila)

I Want, I Need, I Tilt *Off-Market Theater, 965 Mission, 896-6477, www.cafearts.com. \$10. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Through July 31.* Combined Art Form Entertainment presents Tilted Frame's two-act improv "film," a cinematic tale spontaneously staged by the able ensemble (Diana Brown, Jonathan Caplan, Christopher DeJong, Heather O'Brien, and Trish Tillman) in collaboration with videographer Logan Kroeber, video-light mixer Brooke Guthrie, and musician Patrick Bowsher. A roll of the die selects a protagonist, and a random Web site suggests a theme (e.g., the promising www.ihumphthings.com). The result this night ("Bustin' My Hump") coalesced quickly – if, inevitably, somewhat obliquely – around a lazy young man (DeJong) and \$35,000 in back rent needed to save his fan-boat repair shop, located on the edge of a posh Florida resort town inhabited by a millionaire (Caplan), as well as Parrot World, owned by a local bird enthusiast (O'Brien). He tries wooing his landlady (Brown) while his gin-soaked war-addled pal George (Tillman) attacks the problem on another flank (an inept kidnapping caper with

a razor-sharp Caplan as its miffed victim). Ideally, adding colors (Internet and video) to the palette increases possibilities, but more elements also mean more to go wrong – a technical glitch this evening limited video to delayed echoes of actors' ideas, and probably contributed to the unusually tentative pace overall. Nonetheless, the potential payoff is worth the gamble. (Avila)

Immortal Heart *Magic Theatre, Southside, Bldg D, Fort Mason Center, Marina at Laguna; 437-6775, www.zspace.org. \$27 (Wed, pay what you can). Wed-Sat, 8:30pm; Sun, 3pm. Through Aug 8.* Word for Word performs Amy Tan's tale about women's roles in rural China, circa the 1900s.

Mercury in Retrograde *Exit Theatre, 154 Eddy; 673-3847, www.sffringe.org. \$15. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Through Aug 7.* Spoken word artist Ian Winn (a.k.a. "The Techno Pagan Octopus Messiah") presents his solo performance piece.

Movin' Out *Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor; 512-7770, www.ticketmaster.com. \$34-81. Tues-Sat, 8pm (also Wed and Sat, 2pm); Sun, 2pm. Through Aug 29.* See "Schmaltzy Sentiments."

Murder *Phoenix Theatre, 414 Mason; 820-1460, <http://secondwind.8m.com>. \$10-20. Fri-Sat, Aug 5, and 12, 8pm; Aug 1, 8, 2pm. Through Aug 15.* Second Wind Productions presents Hanoch Levin's drama about Israel-Palestine violence.

***Not a Genuine Black Man** *Marsh, 1062 Valencia; 826-5750. \$15-22. Extended run: Thurs/22-Sat/24, 8pm.* What, asks the unapologetically middle-class Brian Copeland, is the real meaning behind the phrase, "a genuine black man"? By way of an answer, the stand-up comic and KGO radio host offers up a simultaneously funny and disarmingly frank story about growing up African American in the racist suburb that was San Leandro in the early 1970s. Letting his narrative bounce back and forth between his boyhood memories and a period of depression that overtook him as a parent in 1999 – and interlarding the autobiography with verbatim utterances from both sides of the fight his family joined to desegregate the city – Copeland brings admirable chops as a comedian to bear on some difficult and disturbing, if ultimately hopeful, material. (Avila)

Orpheus Descending *Actors Theatre of San Francisco, 533 Sutter; 296-9179, www.actorstheatresf.org. \$15-25. Thurs-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pm. Through Aug 28.* Actors Theatre of San Francisco performs Tennessee Williams's modern retelling of

the myth of Orpheus.

Sacramento! *Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia; 626-3311, www.theintersection.org. \$9-15 sliding scale. Extended run: Thurs-Sun, 8pm (no shows Thurs/22-Sun/25). Through Aug 8.* Campo Santo and director Kent Nicholson, in collaboration with writer Dave Eggers, bring to the stage *Sacramento!*, their adaptation of Eggers's novel *You Shall Know Our Velocity*, about two friends, Will (Sean San José) and Hand (Danny Wolohan), who circumnavigate the globe on a private whirlwind mission to dole out \$32,000 among the needy. In addition to witty, artfully rendered dialogue, the story unfolds through Will and Hand's disjointed and competing narratives, as each takes turns addressing the audience. Adapting a novel to the stage is notoriously difficult and often unsatisfying. But the world premiere of *Sacramento!* in some ways improves on the work it starts with. In scenes winnowed from Eggers's fitfully inspired, often plodding book – and set on a stage bare but for an overhead screen depicting a few choice details from their journey – the assumptions and decisions Will and Hand make while seeking out worthy beneficiaries of their largesse comment on the mixed motives of charity generally. In its jumbled way, *Sacramento!* ends up being less about the pitfalls of altruism, or Will and Hand's excellent adventure, than a rumination on the disabling fear of death and, more specifically, the confusion that underscores the sanctity of life. (Avila)

Va Va Voom Room *Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter; 885-2800, www.vavavoomroom.com. \$20-25. Fri-Sat, 11pm. Ongoing.* Each week a new cast of performers from San Francisco, New York City, and Los Angeles present a burlesque and vaudeville cabaret.

Bay Area

As You Like It *Mosswood Park, MacArthur and Broadway, Oakl; (510) 420-0813, www.womanswill.org. Free. Sat/24, 1pm. (Also Sun/25: 1pm, Dimond Park, 3860 Hanly, Oakl; 7pm, Marin Art and Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, Ross). Continues at Bay Area parks through Aug 15.* Woman's Will presents Shakespeare's romantic comedy with an all-female cast.

***Betrayal** *Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison, Berk; (510) 843-4822, www.auroratheatre.org. \$34-36. Extended run: Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2 and 7pm. Through Aug 1.* Having staged *The Homecoming* to wide acclaim in 2000, Aurora Theatre

Company concludes its 12th season with 1978's *Betrayal*, another dip into the Harold Pinter pool. And Tom Ross (the incoming artistic director replacing retiring cofounder Barbara Oliver) offers brilliant direction in a revival as meticulous in detail as it is refined in dramatic effect. The play might have seemed a relatively straightforward domestic drama, compared to the deliciously bizarre *Homecoming*, but for the fact that *Betrayal* moves straight backward in time, more or less, taking a love triangle from the point at which one marriage implodes to the first inspired moment of infidelity nine years previous. For all its genuine eroticism and romance, *Betrayal*'s reversal of the way such stories normally unfold puts the emotional content of the affair starkly, analytically on display. The play is a taut package marked by dry humor, deliberate ambiguity, evasion, and threat, and the cast is up to the challenge it poses. (Avila)

The Caucasian Chalk Circle *John Hinkel Park, Southampton and Somerset, Berk; (510) 841-6500, www.shotgunplayers.org. Free. Sat-Sun, 4pm. Through Aug 29.* Shotgun Players perform the Brecht fable about a child who is claimed by two mothers.

The Fantasticks *Hwy 1 and Calle Del Mar, Stinson Beach; (415) 868-1115. \$17-24. Fri-Sat, 7pm; Sun, 6pm. Through Aug 25.* Shakespeare at Stinson performs the romantic musical.

Henry IV *Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 Gateway, Orinda; (510) 548-9666, www.calshakes.org. \$13-52. Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm (also July 31, 2pm); Sun, 4pm. Through Aug 1.* Many of the plot points in Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part 1*, and *Henry IV, Part 2*, read like a dream-colored anagram of contemporary political melodramas: a prince turns his back on the ruthless world of his father, the king – a usurper with a tenuous hold on the throne – preferring instead to party with his low-life friends. Eventually he turns his back once more, this time on his former comrades and drinking buddies, to assume the trappings of power as a birthright (receiving the parting paternal advice to distract his querulous subjects with patriotic rallying before a foreign foe). Add to the timeliness the incentive of a successful new adaptation by Dakin Matthews, whose condensed three-act merging of *Henry IV*'s parts 1 and 2 made a stir on Broadway last year, winning the Tony Award for best revival. Needless to say, the idea of staging a version at California Shakespeare Theater, where Matthews was artistic director in the mid-1980s, has an air of giddy possibility about it. Unfortunately, director Mladen Kiselov's

production lets that air out pretty quickly, leaving us with a frequently stilted and unfocused treatment. (Avila)

Othello *Forest Meadows Amphitheater, Grand Ave, Dominican University, San Rafael; (415) 499-4488, www.marinshakespeare.org. \$15-26. Sat/24, July 30, Aug 1, 7, 13, and 15, 8pm; Sun/25, Aug 8, 4pm. Through Aug 15.* Marin Shakespeare Company performs the classic tragedy.

Red *Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield, Palo Alto; (650) 903-6000, www.theatreworks.org. \$20-50. Tues, 7:30pm; Wed-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 2pm; Aug 7, show at 8pm only); Sun, 2 and 7pm (Aug 8, show at 2pm only). Through Aug 8.* TheatreWorks performs Chay Yew's tale of a Chinese American novelist inspired by the secrets contained in an abandoned Beijing opera house.

She Stoops to Conquer *Forest Meadows Amphitheater, Grand Ave, Dominican University, San Rafael; (415) 499-4488, www.marinshakespeare.org. \$15-26. Fri/23, Sun/25, July 31, Aug 6, 8, and 14, 8pm; Aug 1 and 15, 4pm. Through Aug 15.* Marin Shakespeare Company performs Oliver Goldsmith's classic upstairs-downstairs comedy.

Showdown at Crawford Gulch *Arena Theater, 214 Main, Point Arena; (415) 285-1717, www.sfmt.org. Free. Wed/21-Thurs/22, 8pm (live music, 7:30pm). (Also: Fri/23, 8pm with live music at 7:30pm, Mateel Community Center, 59 Rusk, Redway; Sun/25, 7pm with live music at 6:30pm, Van Duzer Theater/Mad River Festival, Humboldt State University, Arcata).* Show continues at northern California parks through Sept 26. The San Francisco Mime Troupe presents their new musical Spaghetti Western, set in 1886 Texas and pointedly based on the presidency of George W. Bush and the current war in Iraq.

21 Dog Years: Doing Time @ Amazon.com *Berkeley Rep's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison, Berk; (510) 647-2949, www.berkeleyrep.org. \$25-35. Extended run: Fri/23-Sat/24, 8:30pm.* Berkeley Repertory Theater hosts, outside its normal subscription season, writer-performer Mike Daisey's solo show. This tell-all tale follows his two years climbing up and jumping off the "alternative" corporate ladder of dot-com giant Amazon during the heady era of the boom, when corporations could assume the character of utopian enterprises driven by young Zen-capitalist visionaries, and before we all got a grip again. The show, which began in Seattle and has since run off-Broadway, is an adept monologue so much in the style of Spalding Gray and Josh

Kornbluth (with shades of *Haiku Tunnel*, in particular, in the theme) that it almost feels like a merger – with the added acquisition of Mike Judge's *Office Space* as a deal sealer. At the same time, Daisey has a formidable presence and combatively sarcastic style all his own. (Avila)

dance

'Summerfest/dance: 13th Annual West Wave Dance Festival' *ODC Theater, 3153 17th St; 863-9834, www.summerfestdance.org. Wed/21, Fri/23-Sat/24, 8pm. \$18-20. (Also July 29-Aug 1, 8pm, Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center, Marina at Laguna. Same phone and price). See Critic's Choice.*

performance

BATS Improv *Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason Center, Bldg B, third fl, Marina at Laguna; 474-8935, www.improv.org. Fri, 8pm: "An American Musical," \$12. Sat, 8pm: "Summer Games, Round 4: U.S. of A. vs. Ectopia," \$12. Sun, 8pm: "Sunday Players: Micetro," \$8.*

'Dr. Techno's Traveling Variety Show' *Hyena Theater, 2390 Mission, Ste 304; 242-4433, www.technomaniacircus.com. Fri, 9pm. Through July 30. \$5-10 sliding scale. This vaudeville show for grown-ups features circus acts, black-light illusion and puppetry, Willy Bologna ("vulgarian clown with flea circus"), and more.*

'The Faultline Festival' *New College Theater, 777 Valencia; 437-3487. July 27-28, July 30-Aug 3, 7pm; Aug 5-8, 8pm. \$7-12 sliding scale. The Experimental Performance Institute presents the culminating thesis performance projects of 11 graduating students.*

'Fauxgirls!' *Marlena's, 488 Hayes; 864-6672. Sat, 10pm. Free. Victoria Secret and Alexandria host a drag cabaret.*

Off-Market Theater and Studio *965 Mission, 896-6477, www.cafearts.com. \$10 unless otherwise noted. Thurs, 8pm: Improv with the Legal Briefs and Muy Fuerte. Thurs, 8pm: "The Mirth Brokers on a Mission," benefit show for BATS Improv Laughing Stock community service program. Fri, 8pm: Long-form improv with Lila, \$8-15. Fri, 10pm: "The Howard Stone Show." Sat, 8pm: "Evening of Found Text," performance based on menus, signs, wrappers, and other found text.*

The Reactors *Shotwell Studios, 3252A Shotwell;*
www.thereactors.org. Sat, 8pm. \$8. The improv troupe performs.

'San Francisco Theater Festival' *Yerba Buena Gardens, Fourth St at Mission; 543-1718, www.sftheaterfestival.org, www.ybgf.org. Sun/25, 10am-5pm; Aug 1, 1:30pm. Free.* See 8 Days a Week.

'Shakespeare's R and J' *Bannam Place Theatre, 50 Bannam; 986-2701, www.redjackettheatre.com. Thurs-Sat, 7:30pm; Sun, 2pm. \$10.* Joe Calarco's adaptation of *Romeo and Juliet* follows four prep school boys as they discover Shakespeare.

'Strata' *Marsh, 1062 Valencia; 826-5750, www.themarsh.org. Wed, 8pm. \$25-50.* Sound artist Pamela Z performs as part of the "San Francisco Treasure Series."

'Til Friday' *Club Rendezvous, 1312 Polk; 309-CLUB. Fri, 10:30pm and midnight. Ongoing. Free.* Cockatelia, Holotta Tymes, Manley Lennox, Sofondaboyz, and weekly guest stars tear up the stage at this drag revue.

'Zippy the Pinhead in Fun: The Concept' *Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission; 401-7987, www.darkroomsf.com. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Through July 31. \$12.50-16.* Bill Griffith's comic strip character comes to life in this original adaptation by Denzil Meyers.

comedy

Buriel Clay Memorial Theater *762 Fulton; tbhcafe@pacbell.net. Fri, 9pm: "Bernard's Funny Fridays," with Bernard, Carla Clayy, Poke, Tikia, and Tony Sparks, \$10.*

Climate Theater *285 Ninth St; 863-1076. Mon, 8pm: "Monday Night Improv Jam," presented by the San Francisco Improv Co-Operative, \$5. Tues, 8pm: "Tuesday Night Improv Special: Night of 1000 Games," short-form improv jam, \$5.*

Cobb's Comedy Club *915 Columbus; 928-4320, www.cobbcomedy.com. Wed, 8pm: "All-Pro Comedy Showcase," \$7. Thurs-Sun, 8pm (also Fri-Sat, 10pm): Andy Dick, \$20-25. See 8 Days a Week.*

Dark Room *2263 Mission; 401-7987. Sat, 10pm: "Ha Bloody Ha," live talk show with Harmon Leon, \$5-10. Through July*

31.

Green Room Comedy Club 2801 Leavenworth (at the Cannery); 674-9333, www.greenroomcomedy.com. Thurs-Sun, 8:30pm (also Fri-Sat, 10:30pm): Scott Kennedy, \$12-15.

Mock Cafe 1074 Valencia; 826-5750, ext 5. Sat, 9pm: Stand-up comedy showcase, \$7.

Punch Line 444 Battery; 397-4337, www.punchlinecomedyclub.com. Wed-Sat, 9pm (also Fri-Sat, 11pm): Aries Spears, \$10-20.

Purple Onion 140 Columbus; 956-1653, www.purpleonioncomedy.com. Wed, 9pm: "Purple Onion Comedy Night," \$8.

San Francisco Comedy Club 50 Mason; 505-4995. Wed-Sat, 7:45pm: stand-up comedy showcase, \$5-7. Wed, 9pm, and Thurs, 9:30pm: open mic, \$5-7.

Uptown 200 Capp; 206-9997. Wed, 8:30pm: "Uptown Comedy Open Mic," hosted by Eric Peterson, free.

spoken word

Open mics take place almost every night in cafés throughout the Bay Area. If you want to perform, show up about half an hour before start time to put your name on the list. A day-by-day guide to spoken word events and featured readers:

Wednesday: BrainWash Café 1122 Folsom, SF; (415) 440-5530. "Spoken Word Salon," with host Diamond Dave Whitaker, 8pm, free. **Canvas Cafe** 1200 Ninth Ave, SF; (415) 504-0060, mike@westcoastvideo.net. "Open Mic Talent Showcase," 7:30pm, free. **La Peña Cultural Center** 3105 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 849-2568. "Cafe Poetry" and open mic hosted by Paradise, 7:30pm, donations accepted. **Il Piccolo Caffè** 1219 Broadway, Burlingame; (650) 631-5732, www.saturdaypoets.org. Poet Maggie Morley reads, 7pm, free. **Magnet** 4122 18th St, SF; kirkread@earthlink.net. "Smack Dab," open mic with featured performers Shawna Virago and Angie Krass, 8pm, free.

Thursday: Dalva 3121 16th St, SF; (415) 753-8091. "Poetry Mission," with featured reader Marc Bamuthi Joseph, followed by open mic, 7pm, free; 21 and over only. **16th Street/Mission BART Plaza** 16th St at Mission, SF; (415) 255-9881. "CAI Street Arts Workshop," open mic, 8:30pm,

free. **Mediterranean Cafe** 2475 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 526-5985. "Word Beat Reading Series," with featured readers Jan Steckel, Randy Fingland, Sofia, and Alex Benedict, followed by open mic, 7pm, free. **Railroad Expresso** 705 Monterey, SF; (415) 333-4009. Open mic, 7pm, free.

Saturday: La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 849-2568. Spoken word artist Leticia Hernandez with musical accompaniment, 8pm, \$10. **Cody's Books** 2454 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 845-7852. "Poetry Flash," with Alan Soldofsky and Adam Soldofsky, 7:30pm, \$2.

Sunday: Cody's Books 2454 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 845-7852. "Poetry Flash," with Wendy Jeanne Burch and Kevin Patrick Sullivan, 7:30pm, \$2. **Bird and Beckett Books** 2788 Diamond, SF; (415) 586-3733. Poets Stephen Berry, Alex Romero, and Charselle read, 4pm, free. **Mediterranean Cafe** 2475 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 526-5985. "Word Beat Reading Series" hosts the second Allen Cohen memorial reading, 7pm, free.

Monday: Rockin Java Cafe 1821 Haight, SF; (415) 440-5530. "Open Mic Spoken Word Singing Word," hosted by Diamond Dave Whitaker, 7:30pm, free. **Purple Onion** 140 Columbus, SF; (415) 217-8400, www.caffemacaroni.com. Open mic hosted by the Kitchenettes, 7pm, \$5. **Priya Indian Cuisine** 2072 San Pablo, Berk; berkeleypoetryexpress@yahoo.com. "Poetry Express," open mic; this week, "Humor," theme night and special guest Kevin Patrick Sullivan, 7pm, free.

Tuesday: Pat's Cafe 2330 Taylor, SF; (415) 905-8837. "Pat's Cafe Reading Series," with featured readers Will Dodger and Craig Easley, plus open mic, 7pm, free. **Beanery** 2925 College, Berk; (510) 549-9093. "Whole Note Poetry Series," open mic and featured readers Rita Flores Bogaert and Adam David Miller, 7pm, free.