

A&E**GETTING OUT** a look at what's happening in and around the city**Theatre****Local Now Playing**

Nonsense. A habit-forming comedy about sisters putting on a show.

Drury Lane Theatrical Productions, The Loft, 2269 New St., Burlington. May 21 to 24, 8 p.m. 905-637-3979

The Full Monty. The bare-it-all musical, Westside Concert Theatre, 434 King St. W. Directed by Loren Lieberman with a local cast brave enough to drop their drawers. May 23, 29 to 31. 905-777-9777

Emerging Artists Series. Lots of plays over a month's run, presented by Black Box Fire at Hamilton Theatre Inc.'s Studio, 140 MacNab St. N. May 22 to 24 (Thurs. and Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat. at 2 and 7 p.m.). This week, Eve Ensler's *The Good Body*. For tickets blackboxfire.com

Sweet Charity. Burlington Student Theatre presents this Cy Coleman musical, May 23 and 24 at Nelson High School. 8 p.m. 905-637-6000

Final Audition. Hamilton actress-playwright Jaclyn Scobie presents her one-woman show prior to a visit to London (Ont.) Fringe Festival. Produced by Hammer Theatre. Staircase Theatre, 27 Dundurn St. N. May 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets the door.

Local — Opening Soon

My Matisse. Piccadilly Circus and Dundas Valley School of Art present Canadian première of Howard Ginsberg's drama. The women in Matisse's life look at the artist and his art. May 31, June 1, 7 and 8, 8 p.m. The Loft at Dundas Valley School of Art, 21 Ogilvie St., Dundas. For tickets, 905-628-6357 or Bryan Prince Bookseller, 905-528-4508.

Geritol Follies. The Times of Our Lives. The big senior show that brings song, dance and fun to Hamilton Place, May 28, 29 and 30, 2 p.m.; 7 p.m., May 30. 905-528-8095

Theatre**Out of Town — Now Playing**

Canadian Explosion. Stage West Dinner Theatre production celebrating Canadian music. 5400 Dixie Rd., Mississauga. Through July 8. 1-800-263-0684

Shaw Festival. Previews of *The Stepmother*, *Wonderful Town* and *An Inspector Calls* are under way in Niagara-on-the-Lake. For a guide to Shaw shows, call 1-800-511-7429.

Dirty Dancing. Open-ended run of a Mirvish musical. Come watch Johnny and Baby fall in love. Royal Alexandra Theatre, King Street East, Toronto. 1-800-461-3333

My Fair Lady. The London production of this classic musical, Toronto Centre for the Arts. 5040 Yonge St. Through May 31. 1-416-872-1111

Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Previews of *The Music Man*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Romeo and Juliet* are under way. For a guide, call 1-800-567-1600

Old Love. Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Port Dover, presents a new comedy by Ancaster playwright Norm Foster. Stars Jerry Franken and Brenda Bazinet. Directed by Chris McHarge. Through June 11. Main Street, Port Dover. 1-888-779-7703

Local galleries

Anne More Originals, 531 Limerick Rd., Burlington. annemore.com.

■ For the Love of Scotland **Art Bus,** 905-524-0606, 905-481-3218, barbaramilne@cogeco.ca

■ Friday night art gallery bus tours and excursions take place June 6 and 13. \$15. Book early to reserve a seat. Meet 6:30 p.m. at The Pearl Company, 16 Steven St. Après-tour gathering at The Pearl.

Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King St. W. 905-527-6610

■ AGH film series presents *The Age of Ignorance*, 7 p.m., May 21, Empire Jackson Square 6 Cinemas, 2 King St. W. Members \$6, students-seniors \$8; general admission \$10.

■ *Masters of the Ukiyo-e.* To Sept. 28

■ *The Japonisme of Edgar Degas and James Tissot.* To Sept. 1

■ *From Geisha to Diva: The Kimonos of Ichimaru.* To Sept. 1



Tenja Hagenberg with Mike (Nug) Nahrgang, left, Ryan Ward, right, star in *The Evil Dead*.

SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

A bloody good time

GARY SMITH

Remember Taia Hagenberg?

The long-legged, blond singer played important roles in *Baby and Falestos* for The Hamilton Players' Guild. Well, after a tune-up at Sheridan College and four years as a performer for Norwegian Cruise Lines, Taia is back, this time starring in *The Evil Dead* in Toronto.

She's had a name change. Taia is now Tenja. Back to her roots, I suppose.

Whatever she's calling herself, Hagenberg's turned into a five-alarm talent. With her breakout performance in this deliberately cheesy, brilliantly outrageous musical, she's announced she's arrived.

George Reinblatt's adaptation of Sam Raimi's *The Evil Dead* cult films cleaves to the stylistic non-sense of the original slasher flicks.

At the same time, it makes great fun of the campy horror genre, sending geysers of fake blood into the front rows. (Be warned if you sit close to the stage, you'll likely be rained on by blood drops.)

Five college kids dash off to a cabin in the woods for a weekend of hot sex and cold booze. Before you can say "Chainsaw" they've unleashed powerful forces that rattle the windows, seep through cracks in the door and throw ice

water on their fiery libidos.

Think *Animal House* crossed with *Porky's*. Gore spurts from everywhere. The laughs come hot and heavy. The language is rough. Well, what would you expect? There's a big song and dance number called *What The X#%.* And if that's not enough, there's a politically incorrect body-shakin' hoedown called *Blew That B@&\$\$ Away.* You get the picture.

It's all tongue-in-cheek and the political incorrectness is up-front and in your face. If you've got issues with things like that, you better stay home.

Like *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Evil Dead* has its own cult audience who comes to see it

multiple

times. They sit close to the stage, scream at all the jokes, shout lines out to the performers and generally have a blood-soaked time.

By the end of the evening, most of the rest of the audience is with them, giving way to this ingratiating little musical's rapid-fire comedy and sexual innuendo.

This new Toronto edition of the show — a musical that started life in 2003 in the back room of a small TO bar — is hotter than ever.

Slasher-sharp performances connect with the comedy and score big with the songs.

Hagenberg is terrific in the dual role of sexpot Shelly and arch

archeologist Annie. As the former, she brings a Marilyn Monroe quality to her acting. As the latter, she suggests a young Bette Davis biting out every line.

Hagenberg steals every scene with her outrageous facial ticks and pop-eyed visual takes. If you're not drawn to her seductive combination of naive sweetness and aggressive charm, I'll be very much surprised.

At the performance I caught, Kristian Bruun went on for Ryan Ward as chainsaw jerk, Ash. While a little low-key compared with others I've seen do this role, he ultimately cranked up the heat when the bodies started to thrash round the stage.

Tim Porter substituted cute for hunk appeal as sex-crazed Scott. And Dena Chiarocoss had great fun with the straight role of Ash's girlfriend, Linda.

David Gallo's deliberately tacky sets are loads of fun. So are Claudia Kada-Maschern's corny costumes. Along with Peter Higgins' terrific technical effects they give *The Evil Dead* a wild, outrageous look that complements its goofy dialogue.

By the time you leave *The Diesel Playhouse* you'll forget *Rocky Horror's Do The Time-warp* and dance out doing *The Necronomicon*. That's the sort of show this is. It sneaks up on you like the zombie creeps onstage, clutching you in the dark and tickling your funny bone.

This is a deliriously comic, outrageously silly, blood-splattered night of fun. For goodness sake, go. You'll have a hell of a good time.

Gary Smith has written on theatre and dance for The Hamilton Spectator for more than 25 years.

Showtime

What: *The Evil Dead*

Where: Diesel Playhouse
56 Blue Jays Way, Toronto

When: To June 14

Tickets: 1-416-971-5656

■ The Collectors Series: Joe Ng. To Aug. 24

■ The Collectors Series: Luke Chan. To Aug. 24

■ Contemporary Art from Japan. May 22 to Sept. 7

■ Atelier: Tor Lukasik-Foss. May 22 to Sept. 7

■ Women's Art Association of Hamilton 112th Annual Juried Show and Sale. Free admission. To June 1

Arts Hamilton, 279 King St. E., International Village, artshamilton.ca, 905-481-3218

■ The Way I See It, photo exhibition of works by newcomers to Hamilton. Complemented by satellite exhibition at Volunteer Hamilton, 267 King St. E. To May 31

■ Made in Hamilton Boutique, wide range of creative gift ideas made by Arts Hamilton members.

■ A Night of Applause, tribute to Max Reimer, June 2, reception 6:30 p.m., performance and roast, 7:30 p.m. Call Dofasco Centre for the Performing Arts for tickets, 905-522-7529

Blue Angel Gallery, 243 James St. N.

■ Bryce Kanbara — 15 Riparian drawings in pencil and ink

Burlington Art Centre, 1333 Lakeshore Rd., 905-632-7796, burlingtonartcentre.on.ca

■ Being There: To June 15

■ Printmakers '83, of Burlington Fine Arts Association, original prints.

Fireside Lounge until May 27

J.W. Bush Gallery, 459 Main St. W. 905-719-6992

■ Photographs by Michael Mulley. To June 13

Carnegie Gallery, 10 King St. W., Dundas. carnegiegallery.org, 905-627-4265

■ FUSION — Fireworks Travelling Exhibition of clay and glass works. May 22 to June 15. Opening reception, 7 to 9:30 p.m., May 23

Conrad Furey Gallery, 433 Maple Avenue at King Street East.

■ Featuring works by the late Conrad Furey

Creative Works, 992 King St. W. 905-667-0818, creative-works.ca

■ New watercolours by Sylvia Simpson

■ Woodturnings in Carolinian hardwoods by Peter Reisiger

Dundas Museum & Archives, 139 Park St. W., Dundas. 905-627-7412

■ Definitely Dundas, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 24. Ride a horse-drawn wagon through the historic downtown. Visit the museum's Victorian-themed exhibits, artisans, musicians.

Edinburgh Square Heritage & Cultural Centre, 80 Caithness St., Caledonia. 905-765-3134

■ Call for submissions to Haldimand County's 12th Annual Juried Art Exhibition. Entries received 10 a.m. to

4:30 p.m., May 21 to 23, May 26; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 24. \$20 entry fee. Showing May 29 to July 4.

Opening reception, 7 p.m., May 29

The Freeway, 333 King St. E., frwy.ca

■ Exhibition of Quantum Doodling by Paul Dickens

Gallery 69, 69 King St. W., Dundas. 905-628-1517

■ Pieter Bakker: Watamula

Gallery 435, 435 Barton St. E. 905-526-9102

■ On the walls, from Buffalo: Jeffrey Vincent, Peter Fowler, Colleen Cunningham, Gerald Mead, Elizabeth Leader, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Joseph Verrastro and Michael Mulley. To June 13

Gallery on the Bay, 231 Bay St. N., 905-540-8532, galleryonthebay.com

■ A Little of Their Lives: Paintings by David Laing Dawson, May 23 to June 22. Opening reception 7 p.m., May 23

Hamilton Artists Inc., 161 James St. N. 905-529-3355

■ Entre Quatre Murs: Berlin/Between Four Walls, Berlin. Photography by Nathalie Daoust, part of the CONTACT photography festival. To June 7

Hamilton Conservatory of the Arts Gallery, 126 James St. S. 905-528-4020, hcarts.ca

■ Artists at the Centre — Making Thinking Visible, works by children

aged one to six with accompanying documentation by artists and educators who work with them. To May 31. Meet some of the artists, 2 to 4 p.m., Family Day, May 25. Kids, parents, grandparents and family-in-spirit welcome. artistsatthecentre.ca

Hamilton Public Library, 55 York Blvd. 905-546-3200, ext. 3405, hpl.ca

■ Gallery on 4: Maria Whiteman

James North Studio, 328 James St. N. 905-527-4358, jamesnorthstudio.com

■ Fine contemporary craft and photo-based art by local artists

Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital, 1230 North Shore Blvd., Burlington. 905-632-3730

■ Artway: Light Interpreted by photographer Sandy Trunzer

■ Artway on Two: Nature Nurtures by Ashley J. Myers

Loose Canon Gallery, 150 James St. N. 905-515-4346, loosecannongallery.com

■ Ward Shipman — paintings and photography. To May 31

McMaster Museum of Art, 1280 Main St. W. 905-525-9140

■ Contemporary Canadian Art — John Abrams, Ted Bieler, Ed Burtynsky, Betty Goodwin and Angela Grauerholz. To June 14

■ German Expressionist Art — Kollwitz, Pechstein, Dix, Paula Modersohn-Becker and George Grosz. To June 14

■ Matisse: Jazz — 20 original pochoirs (stencil) prints from 1947. To Sept. 6

■ The French School — Bernard, Bonnard, Braque, Degas, Derain, Dufy, Friesz, Gauguin, Marquet, Matisse, Monet, Pissarro, Renoir, Rouault and Le Sidaner. To Dec. 13

Paper Box Studios, 468 Cumberland Ave.

■ Grace Loney, Sabrina Armani Photography, Karma Photography, Ron Eady, Fresh Studios, Libewrangler, Studio DVM, Lumacraft Photography and Colin Lochhead

Participation House, 1022 Waterdown Rd., Burlington

■ Out of Africa ... and Beyond: Julia Veenstra, Judy Robins, Ninka Bielak, Bryndon Shepherd

The Pearl Company, 16 Steven St. at King William. 905-524-0606, thepearlcompany.ca

■ Ars Mundi: Show of International Immigrant Artists now located in Hamilton. To May 26

The Print Studio, 173 James St. N. 905-524-5084, theprintstudio.ca

■ Rocky Dobey — All That Is Solid ... Melts Into Air. To June 7

Studio Gallery, 335 Barton St. E. 905-528-8873

■ Works by the Tiger Group

Sunrise Gallery, 765 Beach Blvd. 905-549-5888, sunrise-gallery.ca

■ Afloat — headliners: Judy Anderson, Robin Laffier; along with gallery members: Jeffrey James Davidson, Malca Crotty, Doug Brown, Margaret Lindsay Holton, Yolanda Varga-Davis, Sandra Edington, Bill Powell, Douglas Cockell, Carol Nasvytis, David Holsey, Betty Petis, Silva Talmassons, Margaret Collins, Ann Kloppenburg, Anita Weitzman, Joan Lemoine, Karen Walker. To June 1

Textures Gallery, 236 Locke St. S. 905-523-0636

■ Going Doty — unique work in all media. To June 9

Transit gallery, 230 Locke St. S. 905-522-1299, transitgallery.ca

■ John Kennedy — Surface Issues. To June 1

■ Michael Allgoewer — recent additions to his Contingent Series

you me gallery, 330 James St. N. 905-523-7754, youmegallery.ca

■ Orient — ceramic vessels by Ingrid Nicolai and mixed-media wall sculptures by Ted Basciano

■ Surrender Nothing Always, 11-foot photowork by Shelley Niro. To June 8

Send Getting Out submissions by 1 p.m. the Friday before Wednesday publication to citylife@thespec.com.

Tomorrow: Concert and club listings