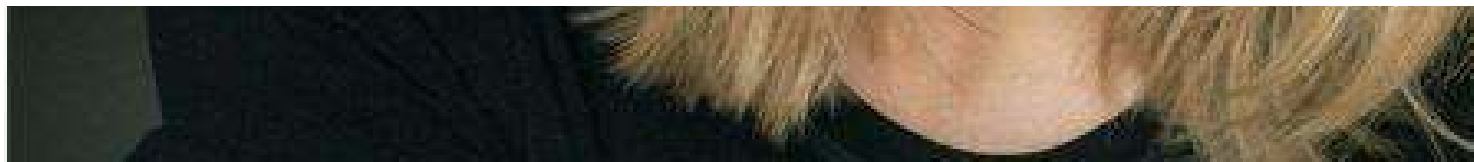


ENTERTAINMENT

Moore: Shadow returns with three-part staging of "Providence"





Shannan Steele is returning to the Galleria Theatre's box-office king, "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" in February.

By **JOHN MOORE** | The Denver Post

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Shadow Theatre Company has been in a period of rebuilding, but it's not taking one small step back into the light. It's taking three large leaps — at once.

Shadow will be spending the next year as a guest of Su Teatro, presenting a season of all original works at the Denver Civic Theatre while recovering from the financial mess that led to a January eviction from its Aurora home. Su Teatro is making its facilities available to Shadow as a show of life support to the city's oldest black theater company.

Shadow will open company member **Arnold King's** trilogy, "The Final Mile to Providence," on Thursday in Su Teatro's studio theater. It's the saga of two Denver sisters warring over custody of an unborn child, exacerbated by the menacing memory of their late mother.

It's a gigantic undertaking for any theater, much less one that's been on shaky ground. But, "Given everything we have been through, we didn't feel like we had anything to lose," said King, who is working in collaboration with The Source, a new grassroots arts initiative devoted to developing new African-American works in Denver.

Ironically, while it takes three nights to see the entire story (with one exception), the plot takes place over the course of just one evening. Part 1 will be performed on Thursdays, Part 2 on Fridays and Part 3 on Saturdays through Nov. 5 (each runs about 80 minutes). All three parts will be staged on the same night once, starting at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 30.

"It's a good, beautiful challenge," King said, and the message it sends out to the Shadow faithful "is that we are going hard, as far as the art goes."

Tickets are \$20 (\$30 to see all three). Info: 720-857-8000 or shadowtheatre.com.

Steeley-eyed

Getting cast in the Denver Center's "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" constitutes the most stable employment in Denver theater. Just ask **Jordan Leigh** – he was in the show for more than four years while it was becoming the longest-running play in Denver theater history. "LPC" returns in February with **Robert Michael Sanders, Lauren Shealy, Daniel Langhoff** and sole returning cast member **Shannan Steele**, who is on quite a roll. Not only is she in TheatreWorks' "Church," opening Oct. 27 in Colorado Springs, she was just cast to return to the Arvada Center's "The 1940s Radio Hour," opening Nov. 29. It was in the 2004 production there that Steele met her future husband, **Joseph Bearss** – who has also been cast to return. Not a bad week.

Briefly . . .

A live performance of the National Theatre of Britain's popular farce "One Man, Two Guvnors" (based on "The Servant of Two Masters") will be shown at the Denver Pavilions and other Colorado cinemas at 7 p.m. Thursday. Info: fathomevents.com. . . .

A memorial party for local theater aficionado **Kay Marie Mirich** will be held from 4-6:30 p.m. today at Blake Street Tavern, 2301 Blake St. Read our full tribute on [our Running Lines blog](#). . . .

And finally . . . Just for kicks, we've taken to writing Twitter-sized reviews of plays we can't otherwise fit into the print schedule. A sample: "**Ellen Kaye** breathes new life – and death – into 'Evita' at the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center. High-flying, adorable." It closes with shows at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. today (303-794-2787).

John Moore: 303-954-1056 or jmoore@denverpost.com

This week's theater openings

Opening Thursday, Oct. 20, through Nov. 5: Shadow Theatre's "The Final Mile to Providence," at Su Teatro's Denver Civic Theatre

Opening Thursday, Oct. 20, through Nov. 12: And Toto Too's "Whacking the Turkey," at Laundry on Lawrence

Opening Friday, Oct. 21, through Nov. 6: Evergreen Players' "Brighton Beach Memoirs"

Opening Friday, Oct. 21, through Oct. 30: Backstage Theatre's "Cannibal, the Musical" *Breckenridge*

Opening Friday, Oct. 21, through Nov. 20, 2011: Spark Theater's "Two Gentlemen of Verona"

Opening Friday, Oct. 21, through Oct. 30, 2011: Front Range Theatre Company's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Castle Rock)

Opening Saturday, Oct. 22, through Nov. 12: Theatre Company of Lafayette's "Return to the Twilight Zone"

Opening Saturday, Oct. 22, through Nov. 6: Ignite Theatre's "A Chorus Line, at the Aurora Fox

Opening Saturday, Oct. 22, through Oct. 29: Vail Valley's "The Rocky Horror Show, at Homestake Peak Auditorium

This week's theater closings

Today, Sunday, Oct. 16: National touring production of "Hair," at the Buell Theatre

Today, Sunday, Oct. 16: Denver Center Theatre Company's "The Liar," at the Space Theatre

Today, Sunday, Oct. 16: Arvada Center's "Ragtime," at the Lone Tree Arts Center

Today, Sunday, Oct. 16: Town Hall Arts Center's "Evita" *Littleton*

Today, Sunday, Oct. 16: Lake Dillon Theatre Company's "Driving Miss Daisy"

Today, Sunday, Oct. 16: Performance Now's "Meet Me in St. Louis" *Lakewood*

Today, Sunday, Oct. 16: Steel City's "Nunsense," at Central High School *Pueblo*

Saturday, Oct. 22: Buntport Theater's "My Hideous Progeny"

Saturday, Oct. 22: The Avenue's "Completely Hollywood (Abridged)"

Saturday, Oct. 22: Naropa's "The Tempest" *Boulder*

Sunday, Oct. 23: Miners Alley Playhouse's "The Night of the Iguana" *Golden*

Sunday, Oct. 23: The Edge's "Some Girl(s)" *Lakewood*

Sunday, Oct. 23: Bas Bleu's "Quilters" *Fort Collins*

Sunday, Oct. 23: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's "Assassins"

Sunday, Oct. 23: Manitou Art Theatre's "52 Pick Up," *Colorado Springs*

Best bets: "Enrique's Journey," Cora Vette and Poe

"Enrique's Journey": Denver's Chicano theater company, Su Teatro, opens its 40th season with artistic director Tony Garcia's adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Enrique's Journey," which recounts the harrowing odyssey of a Honduran boy trying to reunite with his mother in the United States. The book's celebrated author, Sonia Nazario, will also be on the Auraria campus next week as Metro State's 2011 Richard T. Castro Distinguished Visiting Professor. She'll deliver the keynote address at an 11 a.m. Wednesday (Oct. 19) luncheon at St. Cajetan's Center, and a 2 p.m. Thursday (Oct. 20) panel discussion with area journalists at the Tattered Cover LoDo, 1628 16th St. Info: 303-556-3124. The play will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays (plus 3 p.m. Oct. 30) though Oct. 30 at the former Denver Civic Theatre, 721 Santa Fe Drive 303-296-0219 or suteatro.org. *John Moore*

"Cora Vette's Humpday Burlesque Show" Popular burlesque diva Cora Vette and her BurlyCuties are moving into swank new digs at Bar Standard for a new weekly Wednesday night party. The next two 8:30 p.m. shows will feature "The Return of Zombielesque," a Halloween-themed soiree complete with stripping zombies, witches and everything in-between. There is also a separate, 11 p.m. cabaret every Wednesday called "Cora Vette's Naughty Bits," featuring vintage dirty ditties from the 1900s through 1950s about sex, drugs and drinking. That's followed by DJ Chris Fish spinning dance music until closing time. \$10. 1037 Broadway, 303-295-1883 or burlycute.com. *John Moore*

"An Evening With Edgar Allan Poe": Spend an autumn night with one of the American masters of horror at the Byers-Evans House Museum. Set in the historic home of two of Denver's most prominent families, the Byers-Evans House Theatre Company's reader's-theater performance brings to life some of Poe's freakiest tales: "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Raven" and more. 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 5. 1310 Bannock St., 303-620-4933. Tickets are \$16 general admission, \$14 for students, seniors and military. Tickets must be reserved in advance; call to save seats or visit www.historycolorado.org *Kathleen St. John*

Most recent theater openings

"52 Pick Up" Gemma Wilcox brings her popular theatrical game, in which the story of one couple's relationship plays out in 52 short scenes, to Colorado Springs. The order is determined by a deck of cards that's tossed into the air at the start. Through Oct. 23. *Manitou Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 719-685-4729 or themat.org*

"American Night" A Mexican cramming for his U.S. citizenship exam is visited in a fever dream by historical figures who teach him lessons not found in the history books. Through Nov. 20. *Presented by Culture Clash and the Denver Center Theatre Company at the Ricketson Theater, Denver Performing Arts Complex, 14th and Curtis streets, 303-893-4100 or denvercenter.org*

"Blind Date" In this improvisational new play, Canadian performance artist Rebecca Northan plays Mimi, a clown-nosed Parisian woman who has been stood up. Every night. So she plucks an unsuspecting gentleman out of the audience to join her on stage and be her date – for 90 minutes. *Presented by Denver Center Attractions at the Galleria Theatre, Denver Performing Arts Complex, 14th and Curtis streets, 303-893-4100 or denvercenter.org. To read our feature story, [click here](#)*

Charles Dickens' Ghost Stories A family-friendly collection of tales from the author of "Great Expectations." Prizes for best audience costumes. Through Oct. 30. *Arvada Festival Playhouse, 5665 Olde Wadsworth Blvd., 303-422-4090 or festivalplayhouse.com*

"Coronado" From Dennis Lehane ("Mystic River") comes this tale of young ex-con and his reunion with a father who may not have his best interests at heart. A Colorado premiere. Through Oct. 30. *Presented by Springs Ensemble Theatre at 1903 E. Cache La Poudre St., Colorado Springs, 719-447-1646 or springsensembletheatre.org*

"Forever Plaid" Family-friendly musical about four dead teens whose dreams of glory come true when they miraculously return to Earth to perform classics like "Three Coins in the Fountain" and "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing." Through Dec. 4 (and returning Dec. 31-Jan. 22). *Jesters Dinner Theatre, 224 Main St., Longmont, 303-682-9980 or jesterstheatre.com*

"Love Songs for Poomouse" Our hero (co-writer Bobby Dartt), embarks on a journey of self-discovery through a series of songs infused with a variety of appropriate and possibly inappropriate musical instruments. Through Oct. 29. *Presented by square product theater at the Wesley Chapel, 1290 Folsom St., Boulder, 303-442-0234 or squareproducttheatre.org*

"Mauritius" In this new comedy thriller from Theresa Rebeck, two sisters and three collectors battle over a pair of rare stamps that could be worth millions. A Colorado premiere. Through Oct. 29. *Presented by Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company at the Dairy Center, 2590 Walnut St., Boulder, 303-440-7826 or boulderensembletheatre.org*

"A Picasso" It's Paris, 1941, and Pablo Picasso is being interrogated by a German cultural attache who engages the famous painter in a cat-and-mouse game of art, politics, sex and truth. Through Saturday (Oct. 15). *Backstage Theatre, 121 S. Ridge St., Breckenridge, 970-453-0199 or backstagetheatre.org*

"The Road to Mecca" The Creede Repertory Theatre brings Athol Fugard's South African drama to the Arvada Center. Christy Brandt stars as an eccentric who transforms her home into a strange work of art that threatens her community. Through Nov. 6. *At 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, 720-898-7200 or arvadacenter.org*

"The Rocky Horror Show" Brad, Janet, alien transsexuals from the planet Transylvania and Dr. Frank N. Furter. Songs include "Time Warp." Through Oct. 29. *73rd Avenue Theatre Company, 7287 Lowell Blvd., Westminster, 720-276-6936 or 73rdavenuetheatrecompany.com*

Complete theater listings

Go to our complete list of [every currently running production](#) in Colorado, including summaries, run dates, addresses, phones and links to every company's home page. Or check out our listings [by company](#) or [by opening date](#)

The Running Lines blog

Catch up on John Moore's roundup of the latest theater news: denverpost.com/runninglines

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