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ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

Theater in L.A. this week: 'The Thanksgiving Play,' a Donna Summer bio-musical and more



Noah Bean, left, Alexandra Henrikson and Samantha Sloyan costar in "The Thanksgiving Play" at the Geffen Playhouse. (Jeff Lorch)

By MATT COOPER
LISTINGS COORDINATOR

NOV. 2, 2019
9 PM



Here is a list of theater openings, Critics' Choices, etc., for Nov. 3-10. Capsule reviews are by Charles McNulty (C.M.), Philip Brandes (P.B.), F. Kathleen Foley (F.K.F.), Margaret Gray (M.G.) and Daryl H. Miller (D.H.M.).

Openings

Charlie! The Death of Nancy FullForce A TV reporter probes the purported demise of a punk rock star in this musical mystery. The Cavern Club, Casita Del Campo, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Silver Lake. Sun., 7 p.m. \$20. (800) 838-3006. brownpapertickets.com

Reverend Tall Tree's Blues Opera Chris Pierce stars in this musical drama about an itinerant street preacher in Mississippi. Molly Malone's, 575 S. Fairfax Ave., L.A. Sun., 7:30 p.m. \$20; ages 21 and up only. ticketweb.com

The Living Room Series Staged reading of Jack Fieldstein's "The Sparkling City of Omar Mazen." The Blank's 2nd Stage Theatre, 6500 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. Mon., 8 p.m. \$15 suggested donation. (323) 661-9827. theblank.com

Manifest Pussy Actress and activist Shakina Nayfack uses rock opera, storytelling and spoken word to explore her trans journey. Rockwell Table & Stage, 1714 N. Vermont Ave., Los Feliz. Mon., 8 p.m. \$25. rockwell-la.com

Anastasia A young woman with a mysterious past finds herself in 1920s Paris in this multimedia-enhanced romantic musical with book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Segerstrom Hall, 600 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. Tue.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Sat., 2 and 7:30 p.m.; next Sun., 1 and 6:30 p.m.; ends Nov. 17. \$26 and up. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org

Singles Jay Duplass, Kelly Marie Tran, et al., take part in a live reading of the screenplay for the Cameron Crowe's 1992 comedy. Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, Bram Goldsmith Theater, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. Tue., 7:30 p.m. \$50. (310) 746-4000. TheWallis.org

A Taylor Made Tapestry Tribute show re-creates a 2009 reunion concert by singer-songwriters Carole King and James Taylor. El Portal Theatre, 5269 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. Tue., 7:30 p.m. \$35. (866) 811-4111. elportaltheatre.com

The Thanksgiving Play Three white actors must come up with a culturally sensitive Thanksgiving pageant for an elementary school in this satire by Larissa FastHorse. Geffen Playhouse, Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater, 10886 Le Conte Ave., Westwood. Tue.-Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 3 and 8 p.m.; next Sun., 2 and 7 p.m.; ends Dec. 6. \$30-\$120. (310) 208-5454. geffenplayhouse.org

L.A. Theatre Works Celebrates the “Art of Diplomacy” An evening of theater and conversation includes Alfred Molina and Steven Weber in a performance of Lee Blessing’s two-character drama “A Walk in the Woods.” The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. Reception and dinner, Wed., 6 p.m.; performance and discussion, 7 p.m. \$250 and up. (310) 827-0889. latw.org

David Sedaris The author and humorist shares stories. Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine. Wed.-Thu., 8 p.m. \$48-\$110. (949) 854-4646. thebarclay.org

Summer: The Donna Summer Musical Tune-filled bio-drama celebrates the life and times of the Queen of Disco. Hollywood Pantages, 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. Wed.-Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 2 and 8 p.m.; next Sun., 1 and 6:30 p.m.; ends Nov. 24. \$39 and up. (800) 982-2787. hollywoodpantages.com

Fruition Four strangers must band together to survive the collapse of civilization in the not-too-distant future in this new drama from Alexis DeLaRosa. Theatre of NOTE, 1517 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood. Thu.-Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun, 7 p.m.; ends Dec. 7. \$20, \$25. (323) 856-8611. theatreofnote.com

La Chute Staged adaptation of this existential fable by Albert Camus; performed in French. Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts, 6760 Painter Ave., Whittier. Thu., 7:30 p.m. \$5, \$15. (562) 907-4203. shannoncenter.org

La Victima The Latino Theater Company co-presents a locally touring production of El Teatro de la Esperanza’s classic drama that follows two families through several decades beginning during the

Great Depression; performed in English. Los Angeles Theatre Center, 514 S. Spring St., downtown L.A. Thu.-Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun., 4 p.m.; other area venues, Nov. 11-Dec. 8. Free; reservations required. (866) 811-4111. thelatc.org

SkyPilot One-Act Festival Showcase features six original short plays, in two distinct programs, inspired by futurists Alvin and Heidi Toffler's 1970 book "Future Shock." Oh My Ribs! Entertainment, 6468 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. Thu.-Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun, 5 p.m.; ends Nov. 24. \$15; passes, \$20. (800) 838-3006. skypilottheatre.com

The Tale of Turandot For its inaugural production, Imagine Project uses modern puppetry to retell this traditional Chinese fable; for ages 4-12. The Colony Theatre, 555 N. 3rd St., Burbank. Thu.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m., 2 p.m.; next Sun., 4 p.m.; ends Nov. 17. \$17, \$25. (818) 558-7000. imagineprojectca.com

Alice in Wonderland Musical version of C.S. Lewis' classic fantasy tale. Rose Center Theater, 14140 All American Way, Westminster. Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; next Sun., 2 p.m.; ends Nov. 17. \$10-\$15. (714) 793-1150. rosecentertheater.com

The Bogeyman Audience members will be blindfolded for this new horror-themed 20-minute theatrical experience; 18 and up only; waiver must be signed before entry. Zombie Joe's Underground Theatre Group, 4850 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. Fri.-Sat., 8, 8:30, 9, 9:30, 10, 10:30, 11 and 11:30 p.m.; ends Nov. 23. \$16, \$20. (818) 202-4120. zombiejoes.com

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time An autistic teen from a working-class British neighborhood attempts to solve a mystery in Simon Stephens' Tony-winning drama. Greenway Court Theatre, 544 N. Fairfax Ave., L.A. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun., 4 p.m.; ends Dec. 8. \$25, \$34. (323) 673-0544. GreenwayCourtTheatre.org

Eight Nights Jennifer Maisel's new decades-spanning drama follows a German Jewish refugee and her family from 1949 to the present day. Antaeus Theatre Company, Kiki & David Gindler Performing Arts Center, 110 E. Broadway, Glendale. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun., 2 p.m.; ends Dec. 16. \$35. (818) 506-1983. Antaeus.org

God of Carnage The Wayward Artist stages Yasmina Reza's dark comedy about two sets of parents who meet to discuss a fight between their respective children. Grand Central Arts Center, 125 N. Broadway #E, Santa Ana. Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; next Sun., 2 p.m.; ends Nov. 17. \$15, \$25. (657) 205-6273. thewaywardartist.org

HA-M-LET CalArts' Center for New Performance presents Brazilian performance artist Peter Mark's multilingual, multimedia-enhanced work inspired by Shakespeare's revenge tale. Hauser & Wirth, 901 E. 3rd St., downtown L.A. Fri., 7:30 and 9 p.m. \$8. centerfornewperformance.org

Little Shop of Horrors Long Beach Landmark Theatre Company stages the Howard Ashman-Alan Menken off-Broadway musical comedy based on the 1960 sci-fi B-movie about a mild-mannered florist and a blood-thirsty plant of extraterrestrial origin. First Congregational Church Long Beach, 241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun., 7 p.m.; ends Nov. 17. \$15-\$50. (562) 366-0085. LBLandmark.org

Lost in Yonkers Two teenage boys are sent to live with their grandmother during WWII in Neil Simon's classic coming-of-age tale. Santa Paula Theater Center's Main Stage, 125 S. 7th St., Santa Paula. Nov. 8-Dec. 15. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun., 2:30 p.m.; ends Dec. 15. \$18-\$24. (805) 525-4645. santapaulatheatercenter.org

Rockin' in Paradise Broadway's Eden Espinosa and veteran singer Freda Payne perform in this benefit concert. Fox Pointe Manor, 181 S. Cobblestone Lane, Anaheim. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m. \$75, \$125. (657) 549-0455. rockininparadise.com

Sylus 2020 Jeff Ahern sends up the political process in this solo show mixing comedy and improv. ACME Comedy, 5124 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. Fri., 8 p.m.; also Nov. 22, Dec. 13. \$5.95, \$10; no one under 16 admitted. eventbrite.com

Waiting for Waiting for Godot Sacred Fools Theater Company presents Dave Hanson's backstage farce about two understudies on a production of Beckett's classic absurdist fable. The Broadwater Second Stage, 6320 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; ends Dec. 14. \$15. sacredfools.org

Hammer Museum names the artist lineup for 'Made in L.A. 2020'

Frieze Los Angeles plans Asian-focused film series with Katsuhiro Otomo's 'Akira'

Review: 'What the Constitution Means to Me,' amended for Los Angeles, retains its power

Classic movies in L.A. this week: 'The Godfather,' 'An American in Paris' and more

Defenders Pandelia's Canary Yellow Company stages Cailin Maureen Harrison's drama about three American G.I.s who must turn to local villagers for help when they become shipwrecked on an island off the coast of Iceland during WWII. The Broadwater Black Box, 6322 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun.-Mon., 3 p.m.; ends Dec. 8. \$30. (323) 960-5770.

Onstage411.com

An Evening With Rita Moreno The entertainment legend shares songs and stories. The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. Sat., 7:30 p.m. \$79 and up. (310) 434-3200. thebroadstage.org

The Italian in Me Dina Morrone's solo show about her life as a young actress in Rome. Theatre West, 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. W., L.A. Sat. 8 p.m.; next Sun., 2 p.m. \$30, \$35. (323) 851-7977.

theatrewest.org

Joey Arias & Sherry Vine: Looking Back at the Future The veteran drag artists share the stage in this cabaret show. The Cavern Club, Casita Del Campo, 1920 Hyperion Ave., Silver Lake. Sat., 8 p.m.; next Sun., 7 p.m. \$30. (800) 838-3006. brownpapertickets.com

Legally Blonde Jr. Kid-friendly take on the musical based on the 2001 comedy that starred Reese Witherspoon as a sorority girl turned Harvard law student; for ages 10 and up. Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. Sat.-next Sun., 2 p.m.; ends Dec. 14. (310) 828-7519. morgan-wixson.org

Native Voices Ninth Annual Short Play Festival Readings of short plays by Native American playwrights, presented as part of the American Indian Arts Marketplace art fair. Autry Museum of

the American West, Griffith Park, 4700 Western Heritage Way, L.A. Sat.-next Sun., 1:30 p.m. Free with art fair admission: \$6-\$15; military and veterans, free. (323) 667-2000. theautry.org

Our Country Becca Wolff and Annie Saunders' immersive fable, inspired by Sophocles' "Antigone" and tales from the Wild West, deconstructs the myth of America. The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. Sat., 4 and 8 p.m.; next Sun., 2 p.m. \$39. (310) 434-3200.

thebroadstage.org

Rob Lowe: Stories I Only Tell My Friends Live! The movie and TV star shares anecdotes from his life and career. Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, Fred Kavli Theatre, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks. Sat., 8 p.m. \$45-\$85. (805) 449-2787. civicartsplaza.com

Trial on the Potomac: The Impeachment of Richard Nixon Rich Little portrays the former president in a staged reading of George Bugatti's new drama. Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts, 6760 Painter Ave., Whittier. Sat., 1 p.m. Free. (562) 907-4203. shannoncenter.org

Walking in Dorothy Dandridge's Shoes: Her Final New Beginning Wanda Ray Willis salutes the African American actress-singer and activist in this solo musical. Two Roads Theatre, 4348 Tujunga Ave., Studio City. Sat., 7:30 p.m. \$20. BrownPaperTickets.com

THINGS TO DO >
