

## Intermission

Dougherty Arts Center Theater, through June 16

Running time: 1 hr, 50 min



Let's get one thing straight: Gobotrick Theatre Company's *Intermission* is not a musical. The actors don't bounce unnaturally into song and dance in unison wearing silly little costumes. And the musicians don't just sit in a corner playing background music, rarely recognized or seen; they serve as the focal point of the show. Now, with Austin being the "you-know-what capital of the world," this obviously isn't the first time for musicians to be center stage but in a "theatrical setting." So what genre of theatre does *Intermission* fall into?

Maybe it's a live concert with real musicians pretending to be characters in front of a pretend audience in front of a real audience.

The Dougherty Arts Center space is converted into a smaller (if that's possible) and less smoky club than the Elephant Room, where a female singer is giving her last performance. During the interludes between songs, we catch glimpses of the interpersonal relationships of the people sitting at the tables watching her. And based on what we see, this clearly isn't happy hour – "Oh, this is a little awkward" hour is more like it, since the connections between the fictional audience members seem to have been strained through intermissions of their own.

At one table, a daughter and father try to make amends after the mother has passed away. The young woman had started a book with her mother yet somehow didn't know her mother was fatally ill. At the next table, a girl and guy bump into each other for the first time in five years. After some long and painful conversations, the girl just wants to "stay friends." The scenes between them are so clumsy that even a child sitting in the actual audience started speaking up in their scenes together.

The soundtrack smooths over these uncomfortable moments with slow alterna-folk songs. It was a stroke of genius on the part of director Will Snider to ask Adam Hilton to create the score for the production. Hilton is a little bit of Elvis Costello with a youth and novelty that make him look like a passive Rivers Cuomo. (Maybe it's his glasses.) With the other two musicians in the band also sporting glasses, T-shirts, and jeans, they make for a nerdy trio that clashes with the young woman who exudes sex at the mic. April Perez may look like a little girl wearing a fancy doily and boots, but she belts like Sheryl Crow and Cher combined. (Even Cher could learn a thing or two from Perez's young, less quaky singing.) A couple of candy-covered tunes that feature the whole-some observations of a woman who has seen her share of love and loss really liven up the stage.

After Hilton wrote the music, the rest of Gobotrick came in to add the characters. Some of the best material can be credited to Michael Amendola, who plays Aidan. Providing the most comic relief, all-thumbs Aidan persistently hits on a girl who persistently pushes him away. Amendola owns the role, taking it where he wants to: improvising lines, stealing the scene during one of Perez's numbers, and even making the members in the band laugh. This scene that offers no backstory or complicated history lends more to the "play" than any of the melodrama, which is drowned out by the lyrically strong and wailing melodies. — Patti Hadad

guys are the Wallendas of instant invention, except that none of them are dead. **Thursdays, 8pm. Jerm Pollet's One-Guy Show** The ex-Sinus Show mastermind and master raconteur guides the audience through his adventures in the music biz. **Fridays, 8pm. That Other Paper presents ... Standup Comedy.** The popular showcase continues, fracturing funnybones every weekend. **Fridays, 10pm. The AIC CageMatch** is where two improv teams battle for supremacy, right before your very eyes. **Fridays, 11:30pm. Stool Pigeon** features celebrity monologues, true stories, and an all-star cast of local improvisers. **Saturdays, 8pm. ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it. **Saturdays, 10pm. Vinyl Destination** Asaf Ronen, John Ratliff, and an all-star cast join forces for this weekly musical improv extravaganza. **Sundays, 7pm.**

**ESTHER'S POOL** 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. [www.estersfollies.com](http://www.estersfollies.com).

**Esther's Follies: Abnormal Comedy** The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, with the incred-

ible and – *ail! ail! ail!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri, 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military.) Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.*

**THE HIDEOUT THEATRE** 617 Congress, 443-3688. [www.hideouttheatre.com](http://www.hideouttheatre.com).

**AUSTIN IMPROV** The Hideout's rasher of improv returns in full post-biker force, ready to make your trip Downtown a damned good idea after all.

**Friday: Improv Threefer** features **The Newer Troupe**, **mmmmmk**, and **Improv for Evil**. **8pm. \$7-10. The Double Barrel** features **\$10 Bourbon** and **Get Up**. **10pm. \$7-10.**

**Saturday:** The competitive spectacle of improv comedy that is **Theatresports** returns! **8pm. \$7-10. Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by you, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. \$7-10.*

**VELVEETA ROOM** 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. [www.thevelveetaroom.com](http://www.thevelveetaroom.com).

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**Nancy Reed** is just as funny as she was when she won the Funniest Person In Austin competition back in '94, back when stegosauri roamed Sixth Street. Here she is in all her modern *homo sapien* glory, opened for by **Chuck Watkins** and **Seth Cockfield**. **Fri.-Sat., June 15-16, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.**

**Open Mic Night, God Help Us All** They've got three minutes to soar, and you can smell the flossweat wafting in from backstage. There are good jokes, bad jokes, moments of dull obscenity, and times of hilarious brilliance. These are your neighbors: fear them. This week's emcee: **Seth Cockfield**. **Thursdays, 10pm.**

## BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

**STAND-UP COMEDY FRIDAYS AT HOMER'S** are hosted by Bailey, who called to say we should be sure to mention that they're hosted by him. **Fridays, 9pm. Homer's Bar & Grill, 1779 Wells Branch Pkwy #114, 251-5444. www.myspace.com/homersbarandgrill.**

**PAPA GENO'S COMEDY NIGHT** is hosted by John O'Connell and features his funniest pallies and stand-up scenesters doing their thing out in Manor. **Saturdays, 8pm. 114 E. Parsons, Manor, 512/278-1881. \$5.**

**SVT: TWO TWO** We need to give these guys their own In the Clubs listing soon, as they're headies in the brand-new Salvage Vanguard Theater HQ. For now, be aware that this ongoing gig features two improv-comedy troupes each night, but one of the troupes will always be the incredible duo (Shannon McCormick and Shana Merlin) called **Get Up**. Well, except for this weekend, when it's actually the shiny shenanigans of **One Too** and **Spice**. **Sat., June 16, 10:30pm. Salvage Vanguard Theater, 2803 Manor, 474-SVT6. \$7-10. www.salvagevanguard.org.**

## Dance

**BLUE LAPIS LIGHT: CONSTELLATION** Sally Jacques' latest site-specific work takes her audiences to the federal courthouse for another unique event. Dancers, climbing experts, technical designers, and rigging experts collaborate under Jacques' creative direction, this time aided by Laura Cannon and Nicole Whiteside, to find ways for performers to soar, tumble, ascend, and descend across the face of the buildings. The audience is asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of the show; general-admission ticket holders, please bring something to sit on (blanket/lawn chair). **Through June 23. Thu., 9pm; Fri.-Sat., 9 & 10pm (two shows) Federal Courthouse Buildings, 300 E. Eighth. 474-TIXS (info: 288-1929). \$15 (\$20, prime seating; \$10, seniors, students, children, Dance Umbrella). www.bluelapislight.org.**

**DANCING WITH THE STARS** Fandangoing Fatones! Do you mean to say that the television show has spawned a tour? Why, yes, it has. This star-spangled spin-off twirls into town promising the scheduled participation of runner-up Joey Fatone and partner Kym Johnson, as well as a full dance card of other celebrities you may have ogled on the goggle box, though "all talent [is] subject to change." Ain't that the truth? **Wed., June 20, 7:30pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 477-6060, 800/982-2386. \$49.50-65. www.TexasBoxOffice.com.**

**INSIDE A BROKEN CLOCK: A TOM WAITS PEEPSHOW** Dance, puppetry, risqué vaudeville, and live music. Set to the music of Tom Waits, the peep show features an impressive cross-section of Austin artists, dancers, actors, puppeteers, and musicians. **Thu.-Fri., June 14-15, 8 & 10:30pm. The Parish, 214 E. Sixth, upstairs, 480-0799. \$15. www.brokenclockcabaret.com.**

## 1,001 NIGHTS

**CLEOPATRA** Belly dancing with true Egyptian flavor. **Fri.-Sat., 8pm-2am. Cleopatra, 2620 S. I-35. 947-9462.**

## TWO LEFT FEET

**ESTUDIO FLAMENCO** Get fired up with flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central location, to boot. Call for times. **2801 W. 45th. 382-1366. \$10 per class (private lessons available). www.estudioflamenco.com.**

**MODERN DANCE CLASSES** Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). *Times and prices vary, see the Tapestry website for details. Tapestry Dance Co. studios, 2302 Western Trails. www.tapestry.org.*

**DANCE INTERNATIONAL** Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. **Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE. Fees vary. www.dancein.org.**

**AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS** ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. **Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek. 989-3939. www.austinballroomdancers.org.**

**BELLYDANCE CLASSES** Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. *Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 971-0188. www.twylabellydance.com.*

**CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS** Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. **Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.**

**AUSTIN SCANDINAVIAN DANCING** Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. **Thursdays 7:30-9:45 pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3. www.austinscandi.org.**

**AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE** With live music. **Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3. www.ci.austin.tx.us.**

**AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS** Learn a variety of couples' and line dances from around the world before giving them a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. **Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Rec. Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5. www.aifd.cc.**

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the June 29 issue is Monday, June 18.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials. Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail: