

Theater Off-Off Beaten Track

It's not so hard to find diversity and experimentation in L.A.'s theater scene, despite what a recent *L.A. Times* article might have you believe. This weekend finds three such interesting outings.

Richard Foreman's *Pearls for Pigs* is an outrageous, macabre mindscape described by *The New York Times* as "stimulating, sometimes exasperating . . . a circus, perhaps, of horrors . . . replete with magicians, clowns, colliding dwarfs, blood and a coffin" set in "a wild and crazy junk shop." Foreman's visceral, non-linear works have won him a MacArthur genius grant as well as seven Obie awards in his 30-year career. And yet this is the first time his original work can be seen in L.A. UCLA, Freud Playhouse; Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 6-8, 8 p.m.; Sun., Nov. 9, 2 p.m.; \$25, \$10 students. (310) 825-2101.

The Los Angeles Poverty Department, despite the homeless status of many of its members, has thrived for years from its downtown outpost and continues to offer theater that's often stunning in its honesty and lacking in pretension. It and the Skirball Cultural Center might at first seem worlds apart — and yet you'll find much in common between the wandering Jews of *Exodus* and the homeless of *Skid Row* at the Center's exhibit "Temporary Quarters: Artists Build for Shelter and Celebration," which commemorates the autumn Sukkot festival with its themes of food, shelter and the giving of thanks. Members of LAPD will perform, from three artist-made Sukkot shelters, ongoing works incorporating tales from the street and thoughts on the meaning of home, entitled "Living in Temporary Quarters." (It's fine to wander through, catch a bit and stop back later.) Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.; Sat.-Sun., Nov. 8-9, 1-5 p.m.; free with regular admission: \$7, \$5 students & seniors, children under 12 free. See Museums for more info. (310) 440-4500.

Latins Anonymous is one of L.A.'s seminal Latino comedy sketch troupes, known for its bold and raucous takes on cultural identity and heritage. Their eponymous 1989 play ran for ages and was followed up by the also successful *LA LA Awards*. The group is celebrating the second printing of the anthology of those plays (published by Arte Publico Press) with appearances this weekend. Catch performances of excerpts by members Diane Rodriguez, Cris Franco, Armando Molina and Luisa Leschin, and get a copy of the book signed at a party at Book Soup and during the first annual Los Angeles Latino Book and Cultural Festival at which they'll be introduced by Edward James Olmos. Book Soup Party, 8818 W. Sunset Blvd., W. Hlywd.; Sat., Nov. 8, 10 p.m. (310) 659-3110. Los Angeles Latino Book and Cultural Festival, L.A. Convention Center, Hall G, 1201 S. Figueroa Ave., dwntrwn; perfs Sat.-Sun., Nov. 8-9, 2:30 p.m.; \$3, \$2 children ages 12-17, \$1 under 12, \$6 families. (213) 263-2484. See Readings for more info.

—Constance Monaghan



Calendar

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FOR PIGS, T. CHARLES ERICKSON; TOP INSET, CRAIG SCHWARTZ

Pearls for Pigs