

Feb. 13, Minneapolis' esteemed Guthrie Theatre and the equally regarded Acting Company offer a single performance of Shakespeare's *Henry V* ("We few, we happy few, we band of brothers ..."). The very next night, Feb. 14, the same two groups join forces for a different play, an adaptation of James Fenimore Cooper's Colonial-era thriller *The Spy*. Did somebody say puppets? On Feb. 20 and 21, the Joe Goode Performance Group and puppeteer Basil Twist present *Wonderboy*, the tale of a super-sensitive superhero (not to be confused with the Tenacious D song of the same name) told in dance, puppets and live music. Finally, on Feb. 28, Ovations welcomes the Ahn Trio, three sisters from South Korea who comprise a dangerously awesome piano/string chamber trio. Their concert, *Lullabies for My Favorite Insomniac*, should offer a night of avant-garde delights.

4.48 Psychosis, presented by Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble

Feb. 26 to March 7, The Chapel Sanctuary for the Arts (6238 Alexander Drive in Clayton) · 314.835.7415
www.slightlyoff.org

When you look at a Rothko painting or read a Hemingway story, you might get to thinking that these are guys who killed themselves. Maybe it shouldn't lend the work any extra poignancy, but often, it does. Sarah Kane was a British playwright whose works were not easy to handle. Incest, rape, retardation, murder, hate crimes – these were a few of her favorite things. Her final play was in essence a suicide note intended for the stage. *4.48 Psychosis* is a poem of the interior voices that torment depressed and confused characters. It's made more powerful by the knowledge that the promising young playwright finally stopped the voices by killing herself 10 years ago this month. It's not first-date fare, to be sure, but it is memorable stuff.

MUSIC

Jazz St. Louis CD Listening Club

Feb. 10 – 7 p.m., Brentwood Borders · 314.289.4030
www.jazzstl.org

Hello, culture vulture. You like book discussion groups, yes? Consider a music discussion group? Does such an animal exist? Yep. It do. Jazz St. Louis sponsors a CD Listening Club, meeting monthly at Borders in Brentwood. Guests will listen to landmark jazz recordings and discuss

what makes them gel with noted local experts. This month, pop-culture devotee, intellectual-at-large and Washington University professor Dr. Gerald Early will serve as the guest host. Jazz St. Louis Executive Director Gene Dobbs Bradford will moderate the discussion. The business at hand? In honor of the 70th anniversary of the founding of Blue Note Records, Early and Bradford will play and discuss *The Best Blue Note Album in the World*, which includes John Coltrane's *Blue Train*; Jimmy Smith's *Back at the Chicken Shack*; Horace Silver's *Song For My Father*; and Art Blakey's *Moanin'*, among others. Please call the number above to R.S.V.P.

Anna Blair's Music Reaches Places

Feb. 11 and 12 – 8 p.m., Jazz at the Bistro · 314.534.3663
www.threelegged.org

Audiences didn't know what to expect when favorite daughter Fran Landesman enlisted torch singer Anna Blair to interpret her Gaslight Square cabaret songs for St. Louis audiences late last year. The response: two thumbs-up. She killed. Blair, a redheaded charmer and veteran stage-musical performer, now offers her own maiden solo cabaret show at the intimate Jazz at the Bistro. She's been filing her chops under the tutelage of cabaret notables Amanda McBroom, Lina Koutrakos, Steve Ross and Tim Schall. Neal Richardson serves as musical director and pianist. Blair's handi-capable cat serves as the inspiration for the name of her new venture, Three-Legged Productions.

FILM

DRINKS with Buckminster Fuller

Feb. 11 – 6 p.m., White Flag Projects Gallery
314.531.3442 · www.whiteflagprojects.org

As nice as it might be to discuss the Missouri Botanical Garden's geodesic dome, the Climatron, with the inventor of the form, he's dead. And yet, after a few of the complimentary drinks at the White Flag Projects Gallery event of that name, you may begin to feel you're conversing with the great man. That's because the series of rarely screened film interviews with artists and visionaries takes on Bucky Fuller this month. The noted futurist, architect, neologist, et alia spent decades in fruitful cogitation around these parts, as a Washington University and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale prof in the '50s, '60s and '70s. The drinks pour at

5, and the film starts at 6. So get your Dymaxion relax on.

First Person: Stories from the Edge of the World

Feb. 20 – 7:30 p.m., Meridian Ballroom, Morris University Center, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
618.650.2774 · www.siu.edu/artsandissues

Classic images from National Geographic accompanied by poems read by NPR's Neal Conan – it's a liberal snob's wet dream. Are they giving away soy lattes and Nick Hornby novels at the door, too? Sarcasm aside, the evocative art film *First Person: Stories from the Edge of the World* sounds like a groovy multimedia affair. SIUE's Arts & Issues series screens the film, which promises to "travel to 14th-century Iraq, climb with Mallory as he attempts the summit of Mount Everest, attend the last days of the empire of the Incas in Peru, listen to Darwin's doubts aboard The Beagle, brave a howling gale aboard a Cape Horn windjammer, and probe the ocean's depths with Cousteau." The moving images are accompanied by musical and spoken performances: Ensemble Galilei plucks out a commissioned work, and Conan reads poetry by Mary Oliver, C.P. Cavafy, Sara Vial and Jim Harrison. It's an emotional travelogue, we hear tell.

DANCE

Club 524 Friday Night Tango Dance Parties

Feb. 13 and 20, COCA · 314.725.6555 · www.cocastl.org

One of the many life lessons to be learned from the original *Beverly Hills 90210*: Guys, it doesn't matter if you don't like to dance – if your lady dances, you'd better dance with her, or she'll find someone else to duet with (thanks, Brandon). Club 524 at COCA is an informal twice-monthly dance party that's all about the tango. There's a ValenTime Tango Dance Party on the 13th, which begins with an optional beginner class from 7 to 8 p.m., and continues with open dancing to midnight. It costs \$8 per person or \$15 per couple. The Third Friday Tango Dance Party on the 20th goes from 9 p.m. to midnight, and costs just \$5 per person. The social parties aren't just for people taking COCA's tango classes; they're for people willing to learn on the fly in a fun, alcohol-free environment. The name Club 524, incidentally, comes from COCA's address on Trinity Avenue. 📍

BEFORE & AFTER

Kemper Art Museum



BEFORE

You've been known to massage a Tulip chair or two at Design Within Reach. And the Arch? Awesome. So darn right you noticed that *Shaping the Future*, the first major retrospective of Eero Saarinen's work, just landed on the Wash U. campus. To get your modern on before you head to the Kemper, **Bobo Noodle House** (pictured) can't be beat on style, and the food is just as cool. Bobo offers lively Pan-Asian cuisine (try the Asian barbecued spareribs, grilled curried chicken and the veggie dumpling pho), a smart selection of sakes and Japanese beers, and speedy service that will get your food to the table in a New York minute.

278 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis,
314.863.7373

AFTER

If Bobo looks like the future, time has sort of stood still at **The Fox & Hounds Tavern** – in a good way. Located inside the Cheshire Lodge, the dimly lit watering hole is a little bit campy and a whole lot comfy. Merry old England looks nothing like Saarinen's symbols of postwar America, but The Fox & Hounds is just the spot for spirited debate in front of the fireplace.

6300 Clayton Road, Richmond Heights,
314.647.7300