

Cincinnati CityBeat

Fall Arts Preview

Cincinnati's artsy Tin Man gets a heart, plus art, theater, dance, music and film picks

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The Ariel Quartet - Photo: Saverio Truglia

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A giant robot will soon be descending on the city. Metrobot, the interactive aluminum sculpture by Nam June Paik, once greeted visitors outside the Contemporary Arts Center's former space at Fifth and Walnut streets downtown. After years in storage, Metrobot has been cleaned up, reassembled and — like the Tin Man — given a heart. The piece will be unveiled at the CAC this fall, when an array of arts happenings kick off around the city. Read on for more information about Metrobot and upcoming visual arts shows, local theater and dance companies' offerings, unique opera and Classical music performances, movies for your watch-list and more.

— Jac Kern, Arts & Culture Editor

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VISUAL ART: THIS IS THE WORST — As a result of a yearlong residency at Price Hill's Tiger Lily Press, Cincinnati printmaker Jack Arthur Wood Jr. has created a series of linocut prints, drawings and collages related to the socioeconomic divide between the city's East and West sides. The political works will be displayed in the show *This Is the Worst*, up at Over-the-Rhine's Clay Street Press. Also part of the show will be two linocut triptychs that visually comment on the state of the modern world. *Aug. 22-Sept. 13. Clay Street Press, 1312 Clay St., Over-the-Rhine, 513-241-3232, patsfallgraphics.com.* (STEVEN ROSEN)

VISUAL ART: CEDRIC COX — *Architectonic Lyricism*, a retrospective of the first 15 years of Cincinnati artist Cedric Cox's work, is at Northern Kentucky University's Main Gallery now. His paintings include large-scale abstracts, cityscapes and depictions of rhythmic movements in nature. He works to reinvent geometries and make correlations among music, visual art and creativity. See the Northern Kentucky University Art Galleries Facebook page for gallery information. *Through Sept. 19. Artist reception 5-7 p.m. Sept. 4. NKU, Nunn Drive, Highland Heights, Ky., 859-572-5148.* Cox also is included in the Kennedy Heights Art Center's *Planting the Seed* show featuring five of its instructors. *Opening reception 6-9 p.m. Aug. 23. Through Sept. 27. Kennedy Heights Art Center, 6546 Montgomery Road, Kennedy Heights, 513-631-4278, kennedyarts.org.* (SR)

VISUAL ART: SCENIC RIVER VIEWS — The Main Library's Cincinnati Room will be exhibiting photographs from the invaluable Inland Rivers Collection of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. The historic images in *Scenic River Views: Towns Along the Ohio River* document steamboats and river trade, and also offer glimpses of the old cityscapes of Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Louisville, as well as smaller river towns like Marietta, Ohio; Madison, Ind.; and Paducah, Ky. *Aug. 29-Nov. 2. Main Library, 800 Vine St., Downtown, 513-369-6944, cincinnatilibrary.org.* (SR)

VISUAL ART: THE SOCHI PROJECT — The University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning, which has a knack for thought-provoking exhibitions, gets its new season underway on Aug. 31 with the Aperture Foundation-mounted traveling exhibition *The Sochi Project: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus*. Since 2009, Rob Homstra and Arnold Van Bruggen have been observing how this gritty Russian city was transformed into a showplace for the 2014 Winter Olympics, yet still could not be completely removed from the geopolitically troubled areas nearby. It will be at Reed Gallery, on the fifth floor of DAAP. *Aug. 31-Oct. 19. DAAP, 2624 Clifton Ave., Clifton, 513-556-2839, daap.uc.edu.* (SR)

VISUAL ART: FACES OF FREEDOM SUMMER — Fifty years ago, college students trained with civil rights workers at Oxford's Western College for Women (now part of Miami University) for the Freedom Summer campaign to register African-Americans in Mississippi to vote. To commemorate, Miami's art museum will show *Faces of Freedom Summer: The Photographs of Herbert Randall*. Also displayed will be an important 1964 painting that linked Pop Art to political activism, Philip Morsberger's "Missing." It was based on the posters distributed in search of three missing civil rights activists, who were later found murdered. *Sept. 2-Dec. 6. Miami University Art Museum, 801 South Patterson Ave., Oxford, Ohio, 513-529-2232, miamioh.edu/artmuseum.* (SR)

THEATER: SERIALS! — Whether or not you've been tracking this summer-long series of off-kilter tales by a half-dozen local writers, this finale is sure to be entertaining, in the same vein as the Cincinnati Fringe Festival. (Don't worry: They'll catch you up.) It's a chance to see some favorite area actors in a whole new light. *8 p.m. Sept. 8. \$15. Know Theatre, 1120 Jackson St., Over-the-Rhine, 513-300-5669, knowtheatre.com.* (RICK PENDER)

MUSIC: THE ARIEL QUARTET WITH MENAHEM PRESSLER — Back for their third season as University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music's quartet-in-residence, the youthful Ariel String Quartet is joined by venerable legendary pianist Menahem Pressler for a performance of Brahms' majestic Quintet in F minor, Op. 34. Pressler was a founding member of the acclaimed Beaux Arts Trio and is active as a performer and teacher. Quartets by Haydn and Berg are also featured. *8 p.m. Sept. 9. \$15-\$20. Corbett Auditorium, CCM Village, University of Cincinnati, Clifton, 513-556-4183.* (Anne Arenstein)

VISUAL ART: FOTOFOCUS AT THE CAC — FotoFocus 2014 is fundamentally different from the initial 2012 edition in that the organization itself now has an artistic director — Kevin Moore — who has been curating its signature shows. His key show features work by the Swiss-born, Berlin-based team of Taiyo Onorato and Nico Krebs. While they are photographers, they also use sound, film and sculpture in their shows and there is sometimes a humorous element. Their *One-Eyed Thief* at the CAC will be the duo's first U.S. solo museum exhibit. *Sept. 12, 2014-Feb. 15, 2015. Contemporary Arts Center, 44 E. Sixth St., Downtown, fotofocuscincinnati.org.* (SR)

VISUAL ART: PEGGY CRAWFORD — This will be quite a homecoming. Peggy Crawford, who co-founded Cincinnati Modern Art Society (the Contemporary Arts Center's precursor) in 1939 and now lives in Santa Fe, N.M., is returning to the CAC for the opening of an exhibition of her photographs that is part of its 75th anniversary celebration. She is 96 and the last living link to the CAC's founders. There are 17 examples of work she did in Cincinnati, New York, Yemen and elsewhere. The exhibit is curated by former CAC interim director Ruth K. Meyer. *Sept. 12, 2014-Feb. 22, 2015. Contemporary Arts Center, 44 E. Sixth St., Downtown, 513-345-8400, contemporaryartscenter.org.* (SR)

CLASSICAL MUSIC: DAWN UPSHAW AND GILBERT KALISH — Chamber Music Cincinnati kicks off its season with renowned soprano Dawn Upshaw and acclaimed pianist Gilbert Kalish.

The recital program tells you how wide a range Upshaw commands: songs by Ives, Schubert, Ravel, Bartók and Bolcom. A four-time Grammy winner, Upshaw has premiered roles for John Adams, Osvaldo Golijov and John Harbison, and received a MacArthur genius grant. It's her first Cincinnati recital; don't miss it. *8 p.m. Sept. 23. \$25. Corbett Auditorium, CCM Village, University of Cincinnati, Clifton, 513-342-6870, cincy-chamber.org.* (AA)

CLASSICAL MUSIC: ANDREAS SCHOLL — Yes, it is disconcerting to hear a man singing in the alto range, but countertenor Andreas Scholl will make you a believer. Scholl is a leading interpreter of Baroque roles but lately he's been expanding his rep. Accompanied by his wife Tamar Halperin, Scholl will sing art songs, including selections from his 2012 album *Wanderer*. *8 p.m. Oct. 1. \$10-\$15; free for UC students. Corbett Auditorium, CCM Village, University of Cincinnati, Clifton, 513-556-4183, cm.uc.edu.* (AA)

VISUAL ART: PROJECT (RE)FACE — Brighton's Live(In) Gallery is both a gallery and artist Molly Donnermeyer's home. She has been putting together regular exhibits there and, for October, Natalie Jenkins will be offering the audiovisual *project (re)face*, featuring homeless Cincinnatians who were invited by Jenkins to get free haircuts at Franciscan Haircuts With a Heart and then be photographed and interviewed. The title refers to her attempt to "reface" the image of homelessness. *Opening reception: 7-10 p.m. Oct. 4. By appointment through Oct. 31. Live(In) Gallery, 2159 Central Ave. Apt. 5, Brighton. facebook.com/liveingallery, liveingallery.blogspot.com.* (SR)

CLASSICAL MUSIC: KAZEM ABDULLAH — Kazem Abdullah majored in clarinet performance at CCM, went on to study conducting and, at 34, has racked up impressive cred in the orchestra world. His Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra debut program is a lineup of orchestral and choral work, Dvořák's lighthearted Symphony No. 8, and two choral works by Stravinsky — "Symphony of Psalms" and the rarely-heard "The King of the Stars," featuring the terrific May Festival Chorus. *Oct. 9 and 11. Tickets start at \$10. Music Hall, 1241 Elm Street, Over-the-Rhine, 513-381-3300, cincinnatisymphony.org.* (AA)

THEATER: MOBY DICK — Herman Melville's classic 1851 novel about obsessive, one-legged Captain Ahab and his pursuit of the Great White Whale lands at Know Theatre. This story has been stripped to its essence and reimagined for Know's intimate space, where it will be staged by new artistic director Andrew Hungerford and veteran avant-garde director Michael Burnham. Oct. 10-Nov. 8. \$20. *Know Theatre, 1120 Jackson St., Over-the-Rhine, 513-300-5669, knowtheatre.com.* (RP)

THEATER: THE BIRDS — Alfred Hitchcock scared the bejesus out of a lot of folks with his movie based on a story by Daphne du Maurier. Irish playwright Conor McPherson knows his way around creepy stories, so he was the perfect adapter of this tale of birds attacking people maliciously and relentlessly. This will be a thriller to get your blood flowing for the Halloween season. Oct. 17-Nov. 8. \$22-\$36. *Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, 719 Race St., Downtown, 513-381-2273, cincyshakes.com.* (RP)

THEATER: SAFE HOUSE — Keith Josef Adkins grew up in Cincinnati hearing about his ancestors, a free family of color involved in the Underground Railroad. His world premiere play, *Safe House*, focuses on the tension between two brothers in 1843 Kentucky: one intent on starting a successful business, the other passionate about freeing enslaved people. This is the 70th world premiere produced by Cincinnati's Tony Award-winning regional theater. Oct. 18-Nov. 15. \$30-\$80. *Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, 962 Mt. Adams Circle, Eden Park, 513-421-3888, cincyplay.com.* (RP)

MUSIC: BEN FROST — Ben Frost's music can be called Classical, Rock, Punk, Metal or maybe just music. The Australian composer does a live performance of his most recent album *A U R O R A*, a soundscape described as "exploring luminescent alchemy not with benign heavenly beauty but through decimating magnetic force." 8 p.m. Oct. 19. \$10-\$15. *Contemporary Arts Center, 44 E. Sixth St., Downtown, 513-345-8400, contemporaryartscenter.org.* (AA)

MUSIC: THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH WITH CONCERT:NOVA — This edgy ensemble sets the stage for Halloween with tales from the crypt and music from the dark side. Hear Edgar Allan Poe's classic horror story accompanied by André Caplet's score. Speaking of classic, Bernard Herrmann's "Psycho Suite" is also on the program, along with Bryce Dessner's "Murder Ballades" and eerie madrigals from the crazed composer Gesualdo, who murdered his wife. Music and ghosts play out on Cincy Shakespeare's set for *The Birds*. Oct. 21 and 27. *Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, 719 Race St., Downtown, 513-739-6682, concertnova.com.* (AA)

VISUAL ART: DOCUMENTING CINCINNATI'S NEIGHBORHOODS — The FotoFocus-related exhibit, *George Rosenthal and Daniel Ransohoff: Documenting Cincinnati's Neighborhoods*, coming to the Skirball Museum on the Clifton campus of Hebrew Union College, features Rosenthal's marvelous architectural photos of the West End in 1957, before I-75-related demolitions. The photos deserve to be better known; they are a treasure, both artistic and historical. The Skirball is pairing them with photographs of Cincinnati's impoverished neighborhoods by Daniel Ransohoff; HUC's nearby Jacob Rader Marcus Center is also offering work by local photojournalist Ben Rosen. All three men are deceased. Oct. 22-Dec. 21. *Skirball Museum, 3101 Clifton Ave., Clifton, 513-487-3098, fotofocuscincinnati.org.* (SR)

THEATER: INTO THE WOODS — Stephen Sondheim took the Brothers Grimm to Broadway with his fairy-tale musical. Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (of beanstalk fame), a weird witch and an earnest baker converge in the mysterious woods. Their wishes are granted in Act I, but by Act II, no one is sure if that was for the best. Great music, charming storytelling and some important life lessons. Oct. 23-Nov. 16. \$21-\$24. *Covedale Center for the Performing Arts, 4990 Glenway Ave., Covedale, 513-241-6550, cincinnatiilandmarkproductions.com.* (RP)

VISUAL ART: TOM WESSELMANN — It's finally happening. After years of talk, planning and indecision about when and where it would occur, the Cincinnati Art Museum will open the retrospective exhibition of native-son Pop Art pioneer Tom Wesselmann — famous for his Great American Nude series. He died in 2004. This show, entitled *Beyond Pop Art*, has more than 100 objects and was organized by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Wesselmann estate; Cincinnati put together a modified version that currently is on display in Denver. Oct. 31-Jan. 18. *Cincinnati Art Museum, 953 Eden Park Drive, Mount Adams, 513-721-ARTS, cincinnatiartmuseum.org.* (SR)

DANCE: DEAD CAN DANCE CARNIVALE — Exhale Dance Tribe resurrects its popular Halloween-themed show/event. This year's incarnation returns to Memorial Hall, with a preview in Washington Park on Oct. 24. Exhale founders/artistic directors Missy Lay Zimmer and Andrew Hubbard deliver eclectic, exciting choreography, melding elements of contemporary and jazz dance in their own idiosyncratic style. Expect some thrilling dancing — and feel free to come in costume. 8:30 p.m. Nov. 1. \$30. *Memorial Hall, 1125 Elm St., Over-the-Rhine, 513-505-6340, exhaledancetribe.com.* (JULIE MULLINS)

DANCE: PETER PAN — Cincinnati Ballet takes us to Neverland with this classic tale for all ages. Featuring a lively score composed and conducted by Maestro Carmon DeLeone and performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the sumptuous production delivers magic and flights of fancy — and even some actual flying! Imaginative choreography by Septime Webre strikes a captivating balance between lighthearted playfulness and technical awesomeness. Nov. 7-9. \$32-\$100. Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., Downtown, 513-621-5282. cballet.org. (JM)

FILM: THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING — It is difficult to imagine a more fascinating living scientist than Stephen Hawking. Of course, the challenge hits immediate roadblocks because it is likely impossible for most people to call to mind the name of a living scientist. Hawking's name, if not readily brought up, is recognizable and certain elements of his story are known by almost all. *The Theory of Everything*, from director James Marsh (*Man on Wire*), dares to expose us to the relationship between Hawking (Eddie Redmayne) and his wife Jane (Felicity Jones), offering a personal theory to explain the impact of this genius we should all know better. Expected opening Nov. 7. (TT STERN-ENZI)

THEATER: ONCE — This musical, based on the 2007 low-budget independent film, picked up eight Tony Awards in 2012. Kind of amazing for a simple story about a Dublin street musician ready to give up his dream when a young woman takes sudden interest in his love songs. (Among them: the Academy Award-winning "Falling Slowly.") The story about the power of music is played in a bar in a theatrically imaginative way. Nov. 11-23. \$33-\$80. *Broadway in Cincinnati*, Aronoff Center, 650 Walnut St., Downtown, 513-621-2787, broadwayincincinnati.com. (RP)

FILM: FOXCATCHER — Advance word on *Foxcatcher*, from director Bennett Miller (the true-life guru behind *Capote* and *Moneyball*), has centered on the mesmerizing performances of Channing Tatum and Steve Carell, as Olympic wrestler Mark Schultz and sponsor John du Pont. Miller's films seem similar from a cinematic standpoint to the narrative non-fiction approach of Truman Capote and Norman Mailer, so *Foxcatcher* has jumped to the top of my Toronto must-see list. Much of the buzz will stem from the ongoing evolution of the magical mystique (and physique) of Tatum, but I'm far more curious about Carell's eerie transformation from funny Everyman into an Oscar contender. Expected opening Nov. 14. (TTS)

THEATER: TENDERLY: THE ROSEMARY CLOONEY MUSICAL — Of course, she's George's aunt, but Greater Cincinnatians are proud to claim singer and Hollywood actress Rosemary Clooney as a star in her own right. The local team of composer Janet Vogt and lyricist Mark Friedman has woven her story and her songs into a celebratory portrait of her five decades in the spotlight. It's sure to please audiences through the holidays. Nov. 15-Dec. 28. \$30-\$80. *Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park*, 962 Mt. Adams Circle, Eden Park, 513-421-3888, cincyplay.com. (RP)

FILM: THE IMITATION GAME — Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) is one lucky forgotten man. Known for his role in cracking the Enigma code during one of darkest, most pivotal periods in World War II, Turing will gain a measure of renown for having Cumberbatch bring him to life in this Morten Tyldum film, with support from Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Charles Dance and Mark Strong. Expected opening Nov. 21. (TTS)

DANCE: NUTCRACKER JAZZED UP — If you'd like to try a new twist on a Christmas classic, de la Dance Company has the ticket: a unique, jazzy take on *The Nutcracker* ballet. With music from both Tchaikovsky and Duke Ellington, the large cast performs both classical ballet and swinging New York City-circa-1940s dance styles. And with performance dates on the early side, it's a lively way to kick off the holiday season. Nov. 28-30; Dec 5-6. *Jarson-Kaplan Theater*, Aronoff Center for the Arts, 650 Walnut St., Downtown, 513-621-2787, cincinnatiarts.org. (JM)

FILM: UNBROKEN — Louis Zamperini (Jack O'Connell) was an Olympic runner — a headstrong lad who grew into a quite stubborn man, if the trailer is to be believed — taken prisoner by Japanese forces during World War II and subjected to extreme torture in an effort to break his indomitable spirit. The true forces driving the presentation of Zamperini's story are co-screenwriters Joel and Ethan Coen (sharing credit along with Richard LaGravenese, William Nicholson and author Laura Hillenbrand, who penned Zamperini's biography) and director Angelina Jolie (following up her 2011 feature *In the Land of Blood and Honey*). High pedigree notwithstanding, expect the collected talents behind the scenes to make sure that neither the harsh conditions that befell Zamperini nor his more unpleasant character traits are softened in this dramatic portrayal. Expected opening Dec. 25. (TTS)

FILM: SELMA — As a historic figure, Martin Luther King Jr. has loomed large over almost every attempt to dramatize the Civil Rights era and movement brought to the big screen, but he has been a fleeting figure at best. Ava DuVernay (*Middle of Nowhere*) endeavors to right this wrong with *Selma*, which documents the convergence of King (David Oyelowo), Lyndon Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) and the series of marches that transformed civil rights in America. Of all the biopics on the horizon, *Selma* has the potential — thanks to its subject and huge ensemble cast including Tim Roth, Carmen Ejogo, Oprah Winfrey, Wendell Pierce and Dylan Baker — to overshadow every other historic feature and rewrite our expectations. Expected opening Jan. 9. (TTS)