

LITTLE WOMEN

In this glib musical production of the Louisa May Alcott classic about four sisters who come of age during the Civil War, Maureen McGovern (as Marmee, their mother) gives a stirring rendition of the ballad "Days of Plenty," and Sutton Foster shines as Jo, particularly in the made-for-schoolgirls anthem "Astonishing." But the show's under-nuanced, anachronistic book turns Jo into a strident, sitcom-variety showboat and flattens her sisters into caricatures. Book by Allan Knee, lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, and music by Jason Howland. Directed by Susan H. Schulman. (Virginia, 245 W. 52nd St. 212-239-6200.)

NITA & ZITA

Katie Pearl and Kathy Randels star in Lisa D'Amour's award-winning production about Flora and Piroška Gellert, Hungarian-born sisters who moved to this country in 1922 and became burlesque performers. (HERE, 145 Sixth Ave., near Spring St. 212-868-4444. Through Feb. 6.)

ORANGES LIKE THE SUN

When Judylee Vivier dances barefoot onto the glowing set and begins speaking lyrically of her childhood in South Africa during apartheid, as a white girl (and only daughter) who loved her black nurse as much as her own mother, she recalls Pamela Gien's "The Syringa Tree," a one-woman memoir that travelled unshod over similar terrain. But Vivier's narrative is more personal than political. Her subject isn't South Africa's struggle to escape its repressive history but her own struggle to go abroad and become an actress and to make peace with her decision to leave the past behind. (78th Street Theatre Lab, 236 W. 78th St. 212-868-4444. Through Feb. 20.)

PYRETOWN

Carl Forsman directs the Keen Company production of a play by John Belluso about the struggles of a middle-aged single mother and a young man in a wheelchair. (Urban Stages, 259 W. 30th St. 212-868-4444.)

THOM PAIN (BASED ON NOTHING)

James Urbaniak ("American Splendor") stars in a prize-winning new play by Will Eno ("The Flu Season"), about one man and his discontents. Directed by Hal Brooks. (DR2, 103 E. 15th St. 212-239-6200.)

ALSO PLAYING

AVENUE Q

Golden, 252 W. 45th St. 212-239-6200.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Lunt-Fontanne, 205 W. 46th St. 212-307-4747.

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Marquis, Broadway at 46th St. 212-307-4100.

CHICAGO

Ambassador, 215 W. 49th St. 212-239-6200.

DAME EDNA: BACK WITH A VENGEANCE!

Music Box, 239 W. 45th St. 212-239-6200.

DEMOCRACY

Brooks Atkinson, 256 W. 47th St. 212-307-4100.

FAT PIG

Lucille Lortel, 121 Christopher St. 212-279-4200. (Closes Feb. 5.)

GEM OF THE OCEAN

Walter Kerr, 219 W. 48th St. 212-239-6200. (Closes Feb. 6.)

HAIRSPRAY

Neil Simon, 250 W. 52nd St. 212-307-4100.

HAROLD & MAUDE: THE MUSICAL

Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Dr., Millburn, N.J. 973-376-4343.

INNOCENTS

Ohio, 56 Wooster St. 212-868-4444. (Through Feb. 5.)

LONE STAR LOVE

John Houseman, 450 W. 42nd St. 212-239-6200.

MAMMA MIA!

Winter Garden, Broadway at 50th St. 212-563-5544.

MODERN ORTHODOX

Dodger Stages, 340 W. 50th St. 212-239-6200.

MOVIN' OUT

Richard Rodgers, 226 W. 46th St. 212-307-4100.

9 PARTS OF DESIRE

Manhattan Ensemble Theatre, 55 Mercer St. 212-239-6200.

A NUMBER

New York Theatre Workshop, 79 E. 4th St. 212-239-6200. (Through Feb. 13.)

THE PRODUCERS

St. James, 246 W. 44th St. 212-239-6200.

700 SUNDAYS

Broadhurst, 235 W. 44th St. 212-239-6200.

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW

Union Square Theatre, 100 E. 17th St. 212-505-0700.

TWELVE ANGRY MEN

American Airlines Theatre, 227 W. 42nd St. 212-719-1300.

WICKED

Gershwin, 222 W. 51st St. 212-307-4100.



Katie Pearl and Kathy Randels, in "Nita & Zita," at HERE.

DANCE

NEW YORK CITY BALLET

The season continues. ♦ Feb. 1 at 7:30: "Prodigal Son," "After the Rain," and "Who Cares?" ♦ Feb. 2 at 8: "Mozartiana," "Thou Swell," and "West Side Story Suite." ♦ Feb. 3 at 8 and Feb. 8 at 7:30: "Mozartiana," "Thou Swell," and "The Four Seasons." ♦ Feb. 4 at 8: "Fanfare," "Liturgy," "Orpheus," and "The Four Seasons." ♦ Feb. 5 at 2: "Fanfare," "Concerto for Two Solo Pianos," and "Stars and Stripes." ♦ Feb. 5 at 8 (an all-Balanchine evening): "Agon," "Prodigal Son," and "Stars and Stripes." ♦ Feb. 6 at 3: "Apollo," "Eros Piano," "Concerto for Two Solo Pianos," and "West Side Story Suite." (New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center. 212-870-5570. Through Feb. 27.)

LA LA LA HUMAN STEPS

The Montreal company's international hit "Amelia" (2002) has its New York première. With its bare set, shadowy lighting, and sleek dancers in black suits or sheer black leotards with boy-cut shorts, the piece has the calculated cool of high-end advertising. But Édouard Lock's choreography bursts through its own varnish: rapid, forceful pas de deux, frenetic sequences of arm and hand gestures, and breathtaking vertical drops from point to lunge. Often, a dancer's upper body appears to be in a Berlin night club while her feet remain at the barre. (BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. 718-636-4100. Feb. 1 and Feb. 3-5 at 7:30.)

KEELY GARFIELD

The quirky downtown choreographer presents two new pieces in her season at Dance Theatre Workshop. In "Disturbance," set to Marc Ribor's original guitar score, Garfield and Walter Dunderville dance a psychosexually taut duet in matching red-and-white striped dresses that make them look like flappers-cum-Chrysler Buildings—or like tremulous American flags. The other new piece, "Scent of Mental Love," is a duet about romantic obsession (a "faux pas de deux," Garfield says). It's set to new songs by Rachele Garniez in multiple styles—country and Western, opera, and cabaret. (219 W. 19th St. 212-924-0077. Feb. 2-5 at 7:30.)

ELISA MONTE DANCE

Monte brings her dramatic choreography to the Joyce in two programs. Program A includes the première of "A Woman's Way" (a tender love letter of a dance, commissioned by a man for his wife); a revival of her 1986 piece "Dreamtime," which features fluttering hands and rapid shifts of direction; and the repertory pieces "Veje" (1992) and "White Dragon" (1982). The second program, an evening-length loss-and-recovery cycle called "Via Sacra," marries her recent works "Lost Things" and "Light Lies" with a new center section of anguished gestures and slow collapses, "Psyche's Journey." (175 Eighth Ave., at 19th St. 212-242-0800. Program A: Feb. 3 and Feb. 5 at 8 and Feb. 6 at 7:30. Gala performance on Feb. 1 at 7:30. Program B: Feb. 2 and Feb. 4 at 8 and Feb. 6 at 2.)

"MY PRICE POINT"

In his fourth solo show, the downtown monologist Mike Albo dances and vamps his way through post-election America, a landscape awash in manufactured fear, mindless consumerism, celebrity gossip, and reality TV. Created with his longtime co-writer Virginia Heffernan and with the choreographer Cary Curran; directed by David Schweizer. (P.S. 122, 150 First Ave., at 9th St. 212-477-5288. Feb. 3-5 at 8 and Feb. 6 at 5. Through Feb. 13.)

CONFIGURATION

The Cape Cod-based troupe continues its noble mission of presenting contemporary ballet choreography that avoids the lapses in taste to which that hybrid genre is prone. The changing ensemble consistently draws dancers from top companies. This season, Donald Williams, Joseph Cipolla, and Christina Johnson—who once danced together in Dance Theatre of Harlem—reunite, bringing solemn grandeur to Royston Maldoon's "Adagietto #5," a Mahler treatment. The evening also includes repertory works by Peter Quanz and Harrison McDowd and a gently goofy new offering from City Ballet's Edwaard Liang, "Mixed Nuts." (Symphony Space, Broadway at 95th St. 212-864-5400. Feb. 7-8 at 8.)

PHILLIPA KAYE COMPANY

Kaye's sophomore season features two premières. "Surface," set to jazz by Medeski Martin & Wood, is sensual: dancers in skimpy costumes maneuver through a set draped in fifty yards of silky fabric and meet in a tangle of limbs. "Case of You Still," a solo, shows Kaye alone, interpreting various versions of Joni Mitchell's bittersweet song. The program concludes with an update of last year's glow-stick-enhanced exploration of chaos theory: "Ritual for a Non-Repeating Universe (Again)." (Merce Cunningham Studio, 55 Bethune St. 212-545-5322. Feb. 4 at 9 and Feb. 5-6 at 8.)

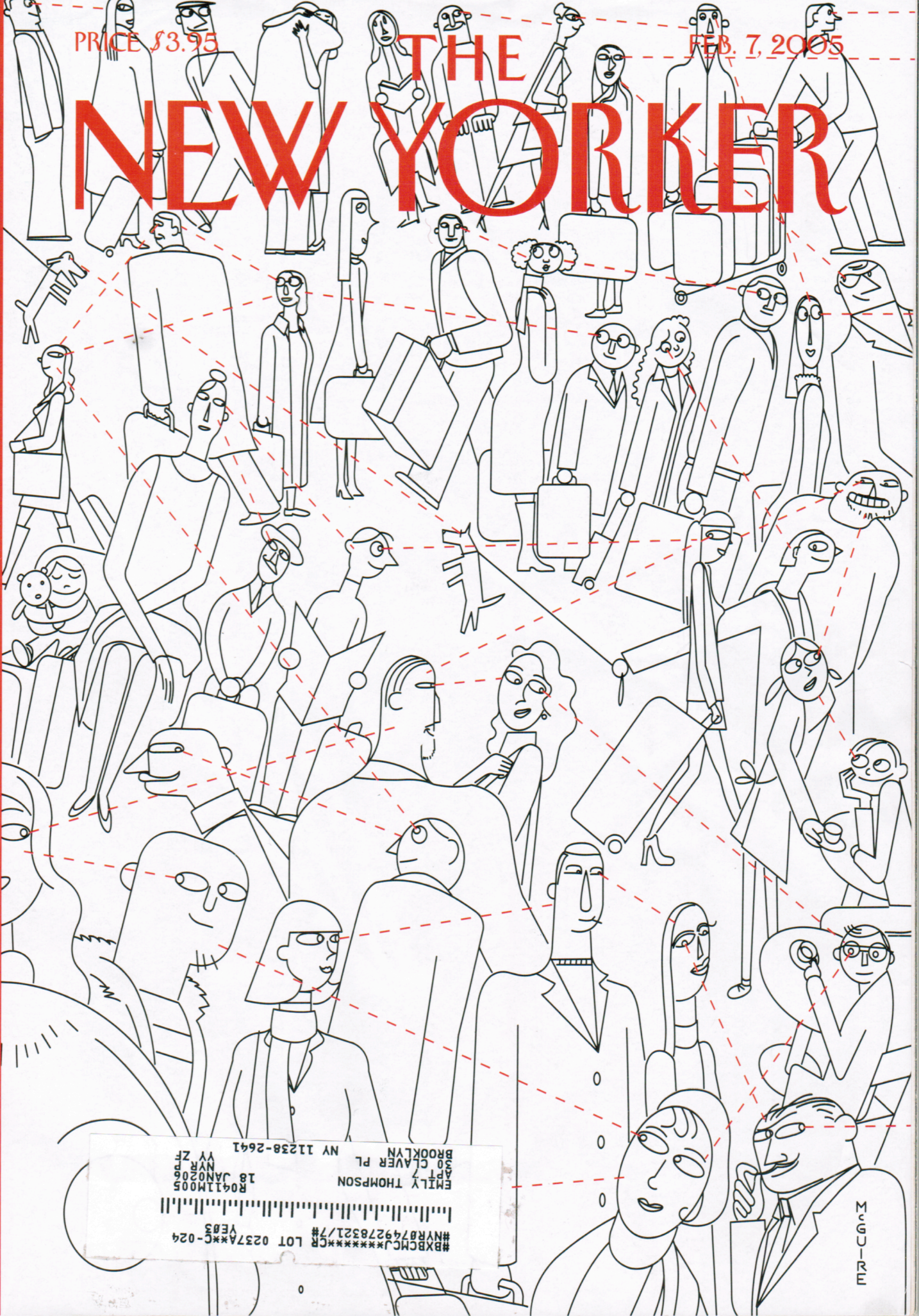
POLLY MOTLEY

The mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci proved that the seemingly random spirals and whorls of plant growth follow a plan that reflects a numeri-

PRICE \$3.95

FEB. 7, 2005

THE NEW YORKER



#BXBCJ*****CR LOT 0237A**C-024
 #NYR8749278321/7#
 YR P NY ZF NY 11238-2641
 18 JAN 2005
 R0411M005
 EMILY THOMPSON
 APT 7
 30 CLAVER PL
 BROOKLYN NY 11238-2641

M 500-1-11