

TO APRIL 15



Agamemnon

The Georgetown Theatre Company's production of *Agamemnon* couldn't be a looser take on Aeschylus' woe-filled strophes and antistrophes. Playwright William Ramsay has transformed the dark Greek tragedy into lighthearted fare, effectively turning wine into water. The play's humor relies heavily on anachronisms: Ricardo Frederick Evans' spandex-clad messenger god Hermes totes a beeper and a cell phone; after each sacrifice or death, citizens take sponges and dusters to bloody altars and thrones. These jokes are funny the first time but get old fast. But at least some of the play's camp really works: Every time a character speaks of the curse of the House of Atreus, red lights come up and a gong sounds, like a spooky moment in a *Scooby-Doo* episode. And there's a terribly funny fight scene between brothers Atreus and Thyestes played out in chuckle-inducing slo-mo that's straight out of *The Incredible Hulk*. But it's the cast, not the material, that really deserves kudos: Evans, in glitter eye shadow and golden-winged loafers, plays Hermes with drag-queen sass, bringing energy to his half-baked lines. And Charles Wellington Young as the play's title character, a Greek king forced to sacrifice his young daughter to win the Trojan war, makes a truly regal—and human—leader. At 8 p.m. Thursday to Saturday, to Saturday, April 15, at Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Ave. NW. \$14–\$16. (703) 271-7770. (Jessica Dawson)

tures refreshments, silent and live auctions, musical performances by the Fairfax Choral Society and the Children's Chorus Chamber Choir. Marco Polo Restaurant, 245 Maple Avenue, Vienna. Saturday at 7 p.m. \$25. (703) 642-0862.

FASHION CRUISE ON THE ODYSSEY, features fashions by Ann Namba; in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Meet at the *Odyssey*, 600 Water St. SW. Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. \$48.52 (proceeds benefit the National Cherry Blossom Festival Scholarship Fund). For reservations call (202) 488-6010.

GRIZZELL VIGNETTE FASHION SHOW, features fashions by Zhariv Grizzell. Black Fashion Museum, 2007 Vermont Ave. NW. Saturday at 4 p.m. \$35. (202) 667-0744.

HEALTH FAIR, features health screenings, a blood drive, and exhibits; co-sponsored by the National Student Nurses' Association and the Ollivian Society. Catholic University of America, University Center, East Lounge, 620 Michigan Ave. NE. Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Free. (202) 319-6976.

INCOME-TAX FORM PREPARATION, features your federal, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia income-tax forms prepared on a computer; participants should bring W-2 forms, dividend and interest statements, and other records; sponsored by the American Bar Association. Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, 3600 John McCormack Road NE. Tuesday, 5–7 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.–noon. Free. (202) 319-6760.

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES DESIGN HOUSE, features 10 rooms designed by 10 design firms, including Drysdale Inc., Chatsworth Design Inc., and Becker Interiors Inc. Washington Design Center, Concourse Level, 300 D St. SW. Friday & Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Free. (202) 554-5053.

LANTERN-LIGHTING CEREMONY, features the lighting of a 300-year-old stone lantern and live musical performances by the West Springfield High School Choral Department and the Toho Koto Society of Washington, D.C.; co-sponsored by the National Conference of State Societies and the National Park Service; in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Tidal Basin. Sunday at 3 p.m. Free. (202) 547-1500.

LANTERN-LIGHTING RECEPTION, features refreshments and personal appearances by the U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen, the Japan Cherry Blossom Queen, and the State and Territorial Cherry Blossom Princesses; sponsored by the National Conference of State Societies; in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 New Jersey Ave. NW. Sunday at 5 p.m. \$40. (202) 547-1500.

LENTEN FOOD FESTIVAL, features an Armenian buffet luncheon. St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, 42nd & Fessenden Sts. NW. Friday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Free. (202) 363-1923.

MODEL ROCKET LAUNCH. Goddard Space Flight Center, 8800 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt. Sunday at 1 p.m. Free. (301) 286-3978.