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Eve Ensler returns with new show

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San Francisco Chronicle
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[David Wiegand](#)



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Eve Ensler is heading back to the Bay Area, after the long run and subsequent reprises of her "Vagina Monologues," with the world premiere of a new solo show, "The Good Body," as part of the American Conservatory Theater's 2003-04 season.

ACT Artistic Director Carey Perloff is announcing the play to fill the company's eighth slot in the season today. The play will be performed at the Geary from June 24 to July 25 and tickets are available for subscribers through Jan. 31. They go on sale to the public on Feb. 1.

In her new play, Ensler explores the issue of female body form and image. With monologues based on interviews with real women from around the world, as well as telling her own story, Ensler's new play will consider how women's lives are shaped by their bodies, as well as by their own images of their bodies.

Ensler's "Vagina Monologues," which enjoyed a long run in San Francisco, has been translated into 22 languages and is still being performed all over the world. She is also the author of "Necessary Targets," which focuses on violence against women in Bosnia, and has created V-Day, an international charity dedicated to ending violence against women.

Tape measure: In its continuing effort to keep its financial head above water, the Oakland Ballet is considering making a difficult decision: It may forgo hiring the Oakland East Bay Symphony for its forthcoming "Nutcracker" performances at the Paramount Theatre and use taped music instead.

"It is not what they want to do," a company spokesman said, "but the budget constraints are

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real, and ticket sales continue to be unpredictable."

The ballet will make a decision by the end of the month and hopes money can be found before then to pay for live music. Any secret Santas out there?

Lily Tomlin, Lynn Redgrave and KC & the Sunshine Band are donating wreaths to New Conservatory Theatre Center's Wreaths for the Arts this year.

The theater's resident designer, Nancy Mancias, and the entire teaching staff will assist 60 students from the Young Actors Workshop, Advanced Young Actors Workshop, Teen Actors Workshop and Teen Performance Ensemble to create 30 to 40 imaginative and festive wreaths, including ones inspired by Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, Judy Garland, Whitney Houston and others. Some of these wreaths will be used on the set of the Kinsey Sicks' "Oy Vey in a Manger" and auctioned off by the Kinsey Sicks, others will be available for sale on eBay and the rest in the theater lobby.

The residents: Christopher Theofanidis has won the Masterprize, that British composition prize that's decided by popular vote and brings a 25,000-pound award.

A native of Dallas who lives in New York, he has held the positions of composer-in-residence for the California Symphony and the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. He is also on the faculties of the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University and the Juilliard School in New York City. The last Masterprize, in 2001, went to Pierre Jalbert, another Young American Composer- in-Residence for the California Symphony.

They have a dang good track record over there in Walnut Creek.

The Berkeley Symphony Orchestra was named one of three winners of the 2003 Bank of America Awards for Excellence in Music Education, sponsored by the American Symphony Orchestra League.

The awards, which drew applicant orchestras from across the country, honor excellence in the area of K-6 and/or Family Concert Series, involving two or more connected concerts in the course of a single season, attended by the same body of

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The two other recipients of the awards are the New York Philharmonic and the Tucson Symphony.

The Music Education Program serves four Berkeley public elementary schools each year, reaching a total population of 1,400 to 1,500 students annually, and rotates to another four schools the following season.

The program provides an intensive, multi-visit program built around two concerts. The program includes teacher training, two classroom visits by an orchestra musician, extensive classroom activities, the introductory "Meet the Symphony" concert, and the culminating "I'm a Performer" concert in which every student performs alongside the professional musicians.

The San Francisco Choral Society will conduct auditions at 6 p.m. Tuesday

for its Dec. 20 and 21 performances of "A Festival of Carols and Audience Sing-Along." For audition information call (415) 221-5590.

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