

'Screwtape' returns

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Max McLean, who starred in Mercury Theater's acclaimed production of "The Screwtape Letters," adapted from C.S. Lewis' epistolary novel, returns with the show for two performances at Aurora's Paramount Theatre. McLean plays senior demon Screwtape who attempts to coach his nephew, the apprentice demon Wormwood, in the fine art of seducing an unsuspecting human.

4 and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at 63 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora. \$29-\$59. (630) 896-6666 or .

Desperate housewife

A wife takes revenge on her husband who she believes abandoned her for another woman in Robert Hewett's "The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead." The show chronicles the impact of the woman's actions on seven people, all of them played by Deborah Staples, star of the Writers' Theatre production of this one-woman show. Director Joseph Hanreddy, who collaborated with Staples on Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's 2008 production of the play, re-imagines the show for Writers' second venue at Books on Vernon.

Previews begin Tuesday, May 22, at 664 Vernon Ave., Glencoe. The show opens Wednesday, May 30. \$45-\$65. (847) 242-6000 or .

Circus in progress

The Actors Gymnasium invites members of the public to a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of new acts as part of "Circus in Progress — An Evening of Daring New Work" showcasing Chicago area circus professionals as well as students from the Actors Gymnasium's advanced classes. Performers include co-artistic director Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi and Lauren Hirte who played Alice in Lookingglass Theatre's seminal "Lookingglass Alice."

4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. \$10. (847) 328-2795 or .

— Barbara Vitello

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