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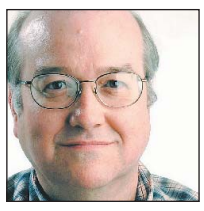
CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

WEEKEND



Oscars on his mind

Vernor Rodgers says silence is golden.

STORY B2

ONLINE FIND SOMETHING TO DO AND GET THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE NEWS

Mark Doerr stars in "The Treatment."

Boston Court gets 'The Treatment'

By Michelle J. Mills
Staff Writer

A small rural town is the setting for drama with a bold helping of humor as the fuzzy line between normalcy and mental illness is explored.

"The Treatment," an adaptation of Anton Checkhov's short story, "Ward 6," written by Richard Alger, follows the chief doctor of a mental hospital who has become complacent about treating his patients while also withdrawing from life. Soon, the healer finds himself an inmate in his own asylum.

"The Treatment" is directed and choreographed by Tina Kronis. The cast includes Mark Doerr, Jake Eberle, Nich Kauffman, Matt Shea, Jacob Sidney and Mark Skeens, with swings Frederik Hamel and John Wuchte.

"The doctor feels that the inevitability of life will come upon you and so there's really not much to be done about it," Doerr said. "He thinks you should sit back and wait for life to happen."

Doerr, who plays the doctor, has been in films, including "Red Tails" and TV shows, "Mad Men," "Bones" and "Criminal Minds."

The Echo Park resident laughs heartily when asked if he identifies with his role in "The Treatment." Yes, he agrees with some of the doctor's beliefs, but he feels that the physician is also extreme in his views.

"He talks about pain being an opinion, and how, if you slam your finger in a door, you might or might not scream, it's all very intellectual," Doerr said. "As he becomes committed into the asylum, he realizes that the philosophical and the real world do not always mix well.

"I certainly at times feel that way, because we all have an idea of what we think the world should be and the reality of it is not always quite the same."

The message of "The Treatment," according to Doerr, is to be involved with your life and with the people around you.

The play explores what

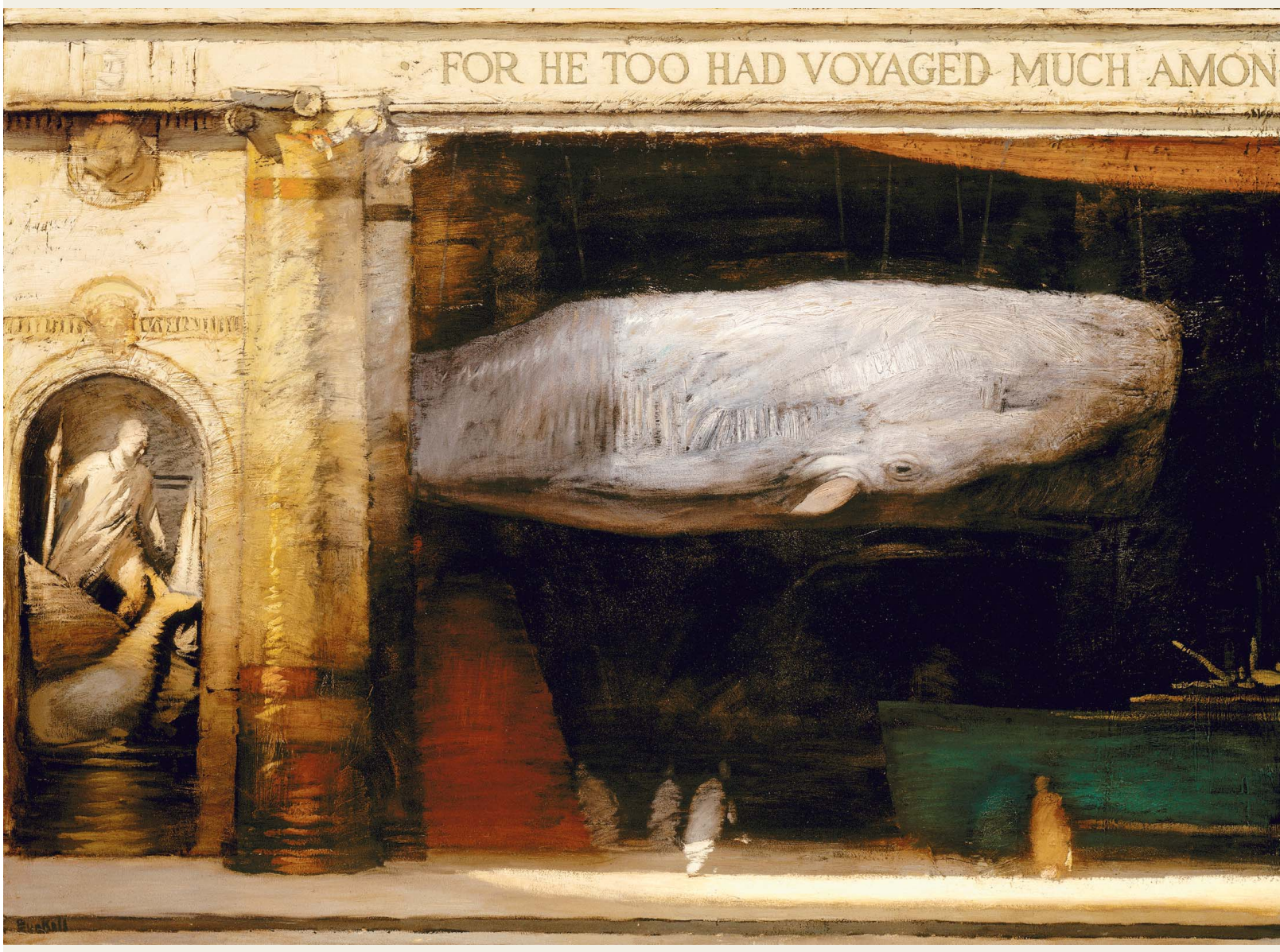
TREATMENT B6

THE TREATMENT
Opens Saturday. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday through March 25

The Theatre @ Boston Court Performing Arts Center, 70 N. Mentor, Pasadena

$34

626-683-6883;
www.bostoncourt.org



Above: "Homage" oil on canvas, 1997. On display in the exhibit "Richard Bunkall: A Portrait," at the Pasadena Museum of California Art through April 22.

BUNKALL'S WORLD

Before steampunk, there was this Pasadena artist's imagination

"Offering" wood, oil and plaster, 1998.

By Michelle J. Mills Staff Writer

A painting on the wall depicts a whale floating in the air through a building's entryway. Nearby is a highly detailed sculpture that plays with classic architecture.

This is Richard Bunkall's world: a place that is ancient, yet futuristic at the same time. The out of place feels at home.

Bunkall's work has an "overlay of something that seems almost Old Master-ish with something that seems very modern, which gives it a dream-like quality, not a surrealist quality necessarily, but a quality of things happening from different times at the same time," said Peter Frank, an art critic and the curator of the exhibit, "Richard Bunkall: A Portrait," on display at the Pasadena Museum of California Art through April 22.

The show looks through selective slices from the Pasadena-based artist's 25-year career of paintings, drawings and sculptures.

Bunkall studied at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and later taught painting there for 20 years. For his work's subject matter, Bunkall focused on architecture, painting and sculpting studies and variations on buildings in New York, Paris, Los Angeles and other big cities. His pieces could be considered borderline steampunk today for their mix of classic and fantastic styles, which evoke a H.G. Wells or Jules Verne feel. In 1994, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease). Bunkall died in May 1999 at age 45.

"Old Building, Paris (for Sally)" wood, wax, oil and plaster, 1988.

"Beyond providing people the pleasure of looking at Bunkall's world, the exhibit is simply to aver that Bunkall was a profoundly distinctive artist, who could manage seeming thoroughly strange and thoroughly familiar at the same time," Frank said. "I consider Richard a weaver of the gentlest, most enticing and certainly unlikeliest of fantasies."

Bunkall continued to paint until just before his death. As the ALS progressed, he would find ways to work around his weakening body, changing the way he held his paintbrush and, later, having the brush taped to his hand.

As the trial to create grew, Bunkall rose to the occasion, upping the challenge by making larger paintings and more intricate carvings, Frank said. He also became more inventive in his processes, both in making art and in coming up with the ideas he wanted to bring to fruition.

"You do get a sense of him letting himself go in the last series, letting himself be so surreal, letting his imagination take off," Frank said.

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Richard Bunkall: A Portrait

Noon-5 p.m.
Wednesday-Sunday through April 22

Pasadena Museum of California Art, 490 E. Union St., Pasadena

$7. Free admission the first Friday of the month.

626-568-3665;
www.pmcaonline.org

Also: Discussion of Bunkall's work by curator Peter Frank and artists Kenton Nelson and Ray Turner, 5-7 p.m. March 4.

TAKE 5 The best of what's new to do this weekend

1 West Valley Dog Sports Agility Trials, 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Competitions include fly ball, obedience and frisbee. Free admission, but there is a $9 fee to park.

Fairplex, Barn 9A, 1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona.

2 Pick your own navel oranges in one of the last working orange groves in the area; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, through mid-March. Bags provided. $5 per bag.

Heritage Park, 5001 Via de Mansion, La Verne. 909-593-2862.

3 Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen consumate folk performers, will combine original songs along with traditional music, in two local performances. 8 tonight with the Berrymans in Whittier, ($20) and 8 p.m. Saturday at Caltech ($15).

Tonight at the Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts, 6760 Painter Ave., Whittier. 562-907-4203.

Saturday in Caltech's Beckman Institute Auditorium, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Pasadena. 626-395-4652.

4 The Susie Hansen Latin Band will play for the Pasadena Ballroom Dance Association's swing dance group Saturday. 8 to 11:30 p.m. $15 cover. Free swing dance lesson at 7:30 p.m.

Grace Hall at Grace Lutheran Church, 73 N. Hill Ave., Pasadena. 626-799-5689

5 Nature hike to Eaton Canyon Falls; 9 a.m.-noon, Sunday and the fourth Sunday of every month. The hike is about four miles at a moderate pace, and crosses water. Call for details.

Eaton Canyon, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena. 626-398-5420.