

BY KARA AMEDORI



The business of love is a tricky one. We've seen it with Brad and Jen, Nick and Jessica, and even back in the day with house servants Figaro and Susanna. Presented by the Baltimore Opera Company between **Mar 12 and 20**, Wolfgang Mozart's 1786 opera **LE NOZZE DI FIGARO** explores the timeless lessons and universal themes of love and trickery through a comedic take on mistaken identities and secret affections. 410-625-1600.

What is "home" to you? For contemporary Maryland artist **CHARLES RITCHIE**, home seems to be an ongoing project. The artist's sketches, drawings, and prints undergo constant reconfiguration as heavy sandings and erasures are evident in his Suburban Journals exhibit at UMBC's Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery. Just as we define and re-define what is significant to us, Ritchie's thematic series of still lifes, landscapes, and self-portraits aim to capture his spirit of home, and make you contemplate your own. **To Mar 26**. 410-455-2270.



Artist **SPOON POPKIN** takes inspiration from the discarded faces of strangers from photos left in alleys or the trash, and dedicates herself to reestablishing their identities within her paintings. Using extreme cropping and oversized scale, Popkin invites the viewer in—look at me—while simultaneously abusing their personal space—don't look at me. Minās Gallery, **to Apr 4**. 410-732-4258.



Welcome to **OMNIUM GATHERUM**, an Upper East Side dinner party. Guests are as follows: an African-American woman who may or may not be a minister, a fireman with a large appetite, and a British drunk. Sounds like a picnic to us. Playwrights Theresa Rebeck and Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros have assembled this "collection of peculiar souls," for an engaging roundtable political discussion in the aftermath of 9/11. At the Olney Theatre Center from **Mar 30 to Apr 24**. 310-924-3400.

Manga. Pixillation. Rotoscoping. Jannik Hastrup: the man behind the animated vocabulary. Producing and directing animated films for all ages since the 1960s, Hastrup brings his work to D.C. with **THE BOY WHO WANTED TO BE A BEAR**, featured during the National Gallery of Art children's film series. Hastrup chronicles the little boy's struggle to find middle ground between his life in the wild with the polar bears and his unavoidable link to humanity. **Mar 13 and 19**. 202-789-3030.



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CONTENTS

Volume 98 Number 3

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

▶ DEPARTMENTS

22 Publisher's Note

24 Contributors Page

26 Letters This old house.

30 The "It List" An evening with King Neptune, museum-hopping in D.C., and 166 things to do this month.

53 B-Side Maryland's lacrosse crisis?

60 Party Pages Swing your partner.

62 Baltimore Inc. Beyond the barriers.

76 Arts Thanks to the likes of Billy McComiskey, traditional Irish music thrives in Baltimore. *By Geoffrey Himes*

84 Parenting Shock treatment. *By Stephanie Silver*

90 Hot Shot This is spinal man. *By Sarah M. Richards*

114 Voices Testing in progress. *By Michael P. Snow*

167 Personal Space Doreen Bolger's artfully cluttered home. *By Jane Marion*

170 Details: The Green Effect It's the color of brand new grass, shamrocks, and fabulous finds this season. *By Pascale Lemaire*

177 Grapevine

178 Dining Pazo.

180 Off the Eaten Path

181 What's New Dionysus. Plus The Dish and 413 places to dine this month.

200 Baltimore Grill Patrick Sutton.

