

The List

Little Man ratings guide



Excellent



Very Good



Good

THEATER


Armistead Maupin's Tales of the

 **City** Judy Kaye's Anna Madrigal heads a cast full of vital performances in ACT's almost three-hour world premiere musical adaptation of Maupin's popular serial, adapted by Jeffy Whitty and strikingly staged by Jason Moore. Scissor Sisters Jake Shears and John Garden's '70s-pastiche songs fail to give the show a distinctive musical voice, and some of the interconnecting stories could be better developed, but it's a warm and lively celebration of life in pre-AIDS San Francisco. Through July 31. \$40-\$127, subject to change. American Conservatory Theater, 415 Geary St., San Francisco. (415) 749-2228. www.act-sf.org. — R. Hurwitt

Beach Blanket Babylon

 Silver's effervescent revue of send-ups and showstoppers is deftly maintained by director Kenny Mazlow. Snow White looks for love in an onslaught of celebrity and pop-culture lampoons and fantastic hats. Ongoing. \$25-\$130. Club Fugazi, 678 Green St., San Francisco. (415) 421-4222. www.beachblanketbabylon.com. — R. Hurwitt

Billy Elliot

 A talented corps of child dancers (with five boys alternating shows in the title role) and impressive adults bring out the eclectic, energetic riches of Peter Darling's choreography while the expert Faith Prince and Rich Hebert anchor the poignancy of director Stephen Daldry and author-lyricist Lee Hall's three-hour musical adaptation of their hit film about the coal miner's son who wants to be a ballet dancer, with a better-than-his-average score by Elton John. The



Brandon Guyton

THIS WEEK

Old Times: Stanford Summer Theater celebrates its 13th season with a Memory Play Festival, beginning with Courtney Walsh, above, and Cristina Anselmo alternating in the roles of wife and visitor in Harold Pinter's tensely cryptic exploration of the twists and turns, fears and dark humor of shifting recollections. Jeffrey Bihl directs. The festival continues into August, with Seneca's very different tragedy of repressed memories, "Oedipus," and a free film series.

8 p.m. Thurs.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sun. Thursday through July 24. \$15-\$25. Pigott Theater, Memorial Auditorium, Stanford University. (650)725-2787, www.stanford.edu.