

## COOL PICKS

THINGS TO DO  
IN THE  
UPCOMING  
WEEK

SUNDAY

### RACHEL KAPLAN

Rachel Kaplan, author of 'Urban Homesteading: Heirloom Skills for Sustainable Living,' is all about the do-it-yourself revolution. Her new book is aimed at those urbanites (or suburbanites) wanting a more direct, rural connection to how they live their lives. She comes to the Capitola Book Cafe Sunday. Details: www.capitolabookcafe.com.

FRIDAY

### SLAID CLEAVES

Austin singer/songwriter Slaid Cleaves has performed in these parts before — many times, in fact. He keeps drawing local audiences, thanks to his wry, deftly observant songs steeped in country blues and folk and with a singing voice that's a strong instrument in his own right. He comes in off the road again Friday at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center. Details: 479-9421 or www.snazzyproductions.com.



THIS WEEKEND

### 'HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES'

Jewel Theatre Company of Santa Cruz opens its new season this weekend with a production of John Guare's 'The House of Blue Leaves,' a dark comedy about a New York zookeeper taking aim at a career as a Hollywood songwriter. Jewel opens its seventh season in its new home at Center Stage (formerly Actors' Theatre) in Santa Cruz. Details: 425-7506 or www.jeweltheatre.net.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

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CHUNYI MCIVER/CONTRIBUTED

Tandy Beal & Company's 'HereAfterHere' takes a wide-ranging view of the afterlife through music, movement and theater.

## Tandy Beal's guide to the Other Side

What happens after we die? I don't know, but I'm prepared to be disappointed.

All that we can say for sure about the Afterlife is that cell-phone reception back to the Land of the Living has to be pretty darn awful, because the question of what comes next is as stubbornly mysterious as it's always been.

Which is exactly why it is so intriguing to Tandy Beal.

The famed Santa Cruz dancer and choreographer is preparing



WALLACE BAIN  
Baine Street

the return of her luminous performance piece "HereAfterHere: A Self-Guided Tour of Eternity" to the Crocker Theatre at Cabrillo College this weekend.

You'd think that artists would be falling over themselves in plumbing the mystery of the Hereafter, but so few are. You'd think the lasting legacy of 9/11 might be the mature and imaginative urge to look into the deepness of that mystery, but no. It

SEE BAIN ON D2

## BAIN

Continued from D1

turned out to be bumper stickers.

Tandy, by the way, doesn't have an answer to that maddening eternal question — she's got hundreds of them. If you didn't see the production last year,

"HereAfterHere" is a stunning pastiche of word and image, including dance, music, video, text and spoken word, all aimed at expanding the imagination on what could be waiting on the other side of the grave.

The tone is not religious or even particularly spiritual or at least how that term has come to be defined. The dominant theme of the show

is curiosity. And it tries to interpret that curiosity and the vulnerability we fall in the face of it with metaphor of beauty and transformation.

As graceful as Tandy has been as a dancer, she's just as graceful in her conception of this show, striking a fine thematic balance. Her approach takes away the sense of dread about death, without turning it into some kind of comforting fantasy. Some laugh in the face of death. Tandy just smiles and looks over its shoulder.

"I just lost someone close to me," Julie Boudreau told me. Julie is the education and outreach coordinator at Hospice of Santa Cruz County. She describing a part in "HereAfterHere" in which Tandy slowly recedes behind a curtain. "The way she did that really captures what it felt like to me."

Another thing to understand about this remarkable performance piece is that Tandy Beal is just a piece in a much larger mosaic. She brings in more than 25 other artists, from composer Jon Scoville to videographers Denise Gallant, Bruce Lee, Jess Damsen and others, as well as the dancers of Tandy

Beal & Company. On top of that, she has for months solicited ideas from all kinds of everyday people who speculate on what the Other Side is like.

What's more, Hospice is playing a big role here, not just as a beneficiary of Beal's generosity — Friday's performance is a Hospice benefit — but as something like an active collaborator.

This is not an instance of the Great Artist allowing us to behold her eccentric vision, but an artist opening up a big question for everyone to examine. Last fall, audience members even got a shot at recording on video a short sentence or two about their own ideas of the Afterlife. I even did it. I think mine had to do with an eternity of

comfortable sofas and good novels.

Also, the way this production is structured — it's not a linear narrative like a traditional theater piece — allows for the artists to step outside the limits of theater, to expand the theme of the evening in a way that really reminds all of us that we have a stake in this question.

As it recedes farther in the past, 9/11 will change meaning as well. If you're one of those who would like to observe the spirit of that day without reliving all the geopolitical/social madness of the event, this is an ideal way to do it. It is, in fact, what we should all be doing.

As Julie Boudreau told me, "I wish the whole world could see it."

## SCHEDULE

'HereAfterHere: A Self-Guided Tour of Eternity' by Tandy Beal & Company will take place 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Crocker Theatre at Cabrillo College. Tickets are \$13-\$35 in advance, \$16 to \$38 at the door. The following is a list of other events coinciding with the show:

**FRIDAY:** Director of Hospice of Santa Cruz Ann Pomper will lead a post-show discussion.

**SATURDAY:** An afternoon symposium titled 'Metaphors in Science, Religion and Art,' features guests science writer Nancy Abrams, First Congregational Church pastor David Grishaw-Jones, Temple Beth El rabbi Paula Marcus, teacher and author Bob Stahl and dancer/choreographer Tandy Beal. Free, 3 p.m., at the Crocker Theatre.

**SATURDAY:** The Rev. Deborah L. Johnson of Inner Light Ministries leads the after-show discussion.

**MONDAY:** Free event 'Always Be Prepared: Planning Your Future Financial and Healthcare Needs,' Inner Light Ministries, Soquel.

**ONGOING:** Video pieces from filmmakers Denise Gallant, Bruce Lee, Tandy Beal and Nada Miljkovic will be aired on Community TV of Santa Cruz County throughout the month.

For more information, visit www.tandybeal.com.

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