The Virtue of Patience

Gilbert and Sullivan? Light opera? Former gymnasts cavorting about the stage and singing? Such questions fluttered through our brain like moths around a light bulb—or was our brain the moths and those questions the light bulb?—after we received an invitation to Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride, which recently opened the first season of the renovated Inside the Ford (formerly known as Taper, Too) at the John Anson Ford Theater. However, when we noticed that it was the Antaeus Company which was putting on the “aesthetic opera,” and that it would be performed in the original music-hall style, we got curious. The Antaeus Company, formed in 1991 by actors and directors dedicated to establishing a resident classical ensemble in L.A., made

Demise. So we figured the company would be a clinch for Gilbert and Sullivan’s snappy satire of the Victorian-era Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood—think Oscar Wilde, floppery with lovelorn maidens, pompous poets, a platoon of dragons, a dairymaid, and a plot that goes through more twists and turns than Bill Clinton giving a deposition—and it was ever! The show runs through December 20, and features any number of hilariously nuanced performances by a stellar cast that includes John Apicella, Jeremy Lawrence, Robert Machray, Emily Chase, Anne Gee Byrd, and Janelle Steeniger.

The Kitsch! The Troopers! The Seltzer Bottles! The Buddy Ebsen Paintings!

We'll never, ever forgive ourselves for missing “The Last Parade” for the senior set,” as our colleague Constance Monaghan called the descriptively titled Big Band Ballyhoo: A Mad, Mad, Musical Madhouse—Zany Comedy and Music Revue that played at the Alex Theater for one show only. Fortunately, Constance agreed to file the following report:

Billy Barty! Buddy Ebsen! Kaye Ballard! Adrienne Barbeau! Pete Barbuit! (Who?) This was sure to

Nice Work, If You Get It

Where It Don't Shine: Performance artist (and Woody-ite) Ron Athey—who is just returned from gallivanting about the globe, on tour in Italy, New York, Brazil, then back to Italy and on to New York again (where)!—hasn’t had time to get the word out about the West Coast premiere of his latest solo piece. So you’re hearing it here, now: The Solar Anus plays tonight only (Thursday, December 3) at Action: Space Studio downtown, 734 E. 3rd St. (around the block from Al’s Bar); $10 donation; call (323) 661-0322 for more info. ... Okay, Ronnie, you fork over those frequent-flyer miles!

Pole Positions: Caught a screening of Jeff Wylie’s marvelous, madcap “mockumentary” Krazy Girls!, a gender-bending gem that tracks a fabulously funny fight between a posse of pole-sitters (about to open their new show, A Strip Salute to Bettered Women) and their ornery opponents, the Feminist United Coalition. This delightfully un-P.C. flick—starring Flush Life Players Mr. Dan, Divinity Fudge and Tina Dahlings, as well as John Copeland and Tim Bennett from Go Aha Alice—screens (free) on Thursday, December 10, as part of the Outfest Village Series at the Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Pl., 7 and 8 p.m.; call (323) 960-9200 for more info.

And that’s as low as we’ll go!