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About Last Night

TERRY TEACHOUT on the arts in New York City

THE TT-OGIC TOP FIVE

A top-five list of new things we've liked. (To purchase or investigate, click on the title.)

- **PLAY:** *Bach in Leipzig* (New York Theatre Workshop, 79 E. 4th St., closes Dec. 18). Say hello to Itamar Moses, a twenty-eight-year-old hotshot making his New York debut with a who's-on-first farce about the day seven famous organists auditioned for the same high-profile church job in eighteenth-century Leipzig. Yes, it's more than a little bit reminiscent of Tom Stoppard's *Travesties*, but Moses is definitely his own man, and the result is the most intelligent comedy by a new playwright to hit Manhattan since Oren Safdie's *Private Jokes, Public Places*. Absolutely not to be missed under any circumstances whatsoever (TT).
- **CD:** Dave's True Story, *Simple Twist of Fate: DTS Does Dylan* (Bepop). The best album of Dylan covers since Joan Baez's *Any Day Now*, reinterpreted by Manhattan's hippest lounge act in the spare, super-cool manner of *Nature*. Kelly Flint's eerily detached vocals have never been more haunting (TT).
- **BOOK:** Alec Wilder, *Letters I Never Mailed: Clues to a Life* (University of Rochester Press, \$29.95). The autobiography of America's least categorizable composer, cunningly disguised as a book-length sequence of "letters" written long after the fact to friends, colleagues, and a few enemies. Originally published with next to no fanfare in 1975, *Letters I Never Mailed* has now been reissued in an illustrated, extensively annotated scholarly edition that identifies Wilder's "correspondents," some of whom were famous (Peggy Lee, Frank Sinatra, Benny Goodman) and others all but impenetrably

ABOUT LAST NIGHT

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ABOUT TERRY TEACHOUT AND OUR GIRL IN CHICAGO

Terry lives in Manhattan. He's the drama critic of the *Wall Street Journal* and the music critic of *Commentary*, but he writes about...
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ABOUT "ABOUT LAST NIGHT"

This is a blog about the arts in New York City and elsewhere, a diary of Terry's life as a working critic, with additional remarks and reflections by Laura Demanski (otherwise known as Our Girl in Chicago), who is also, among other things, a critic. It's about all the arts, not just one or two... More

ABOUT TERRY'S BOOKS

Terry's latest book is *All in the Dances: A Brief Life of George Balanchine*... More

Write Me:

tteachout@artsjournal.com

TEACHOUT'S TOP FIVE

A list of things we've liked (subject to unexpected and wildly capricious updating).

To purchase or investigate, click on the link.

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