

Theater & Performance

Critic's Choice



Heads or Tails by Dolores Wilber with Douglas Grew and Steven Thompson. Urethane cast heads by Matthew Owens.

Site Unseen

When installations and performances inhabit a public space, they often gain from the street-theater component: watching people encounter the art becomes part of the show. That should happen with at least two pieces in "Site Unseen," the city's evening of site-specific work at the Chicago Cultural Center. M.W. Burns's sound installation, *Distractions*, just outside the Randolph Street entrance, might make a passerby think he has a hole in his pocket or look around for a clumsy busboy. Adam Simon's audio tour of the Garland Meeting Room and Education Center is also potentially amusing to bystanders: some of the 27 recorded tracks (played on iPod shuffles, so no two listeners will hear the same thing at the same time) ask the plugged-in person to point

around the space or peer at a milk carton. Unlike these works, Robert Metrick and John Ploof's piece in the first-floor store uses performers—three of them pretending to be clerks, puttering about dusting and straightening while singing a dirge-like song whose lyrics are projected on a nearby wall. A surreal piece about menial labor and souvenirs, this may well stop people in their tracks. The 11 works also include Asimina Chremos and Kairol Rosenthal's *En Masse* in GAR Hall and Dolores Wilber's *Heads or Tails* in Preston Bradley Hall; see the listing for the complete lineup. ▶ Wed 11/16, 6-9 PM (guided tours leave the Randolph Cafe every half hour from 6-8:30 PM). Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, 312-744-6630 or TTY 312-744-2947. **FREE** —**Laura Molzahn**