

OCTOBER 19 - OCTOBER 25, 2016 | VOL. LXI | NO. 42 VILLAGOICE.COM | FREE

CRITIC'S PICK

THEATER

October 19-November 5

WAKE IN FRIGHT

A NINETEENTH-CENTURY NEW YORKER LIVES HIS NIGHTMARES IN BORSCHT BELT–SET PRODUCTION

Little Lord makes collage theater with snacks. Seemingly disparate ideas get put through the creative team's blender, and the result is something satisfying but wholly unexpected. Their new show, Now Is the Time. Now Is the Best Time. Now Is the Best Time of Your Life., mixes up a kooky cocktail of Rip Van Winkle, Prometheus Bound, Dirty Dancing, and horror. Frightening garden gnomes and a liver-eating bird-woman play a part in this narrative and nightmare, which involves a man in 1809 New York City, Diedrich Knickerbocker, awakening two hundred years later in a decrepit old Borscht Belt resort. There is a method to the madness and a welcomingly weird vibe; even if nothing makes immediate sense, Little Lord's work offers layers of interesting images and concepts to bite into. It's not overly brainy — it's emotional, playful, and often very funny. With this production, expect coleslaw and see where it takes you. NICOLE SERRATORE

Various times, Abrons Arts Center, 466 Grand Street (enter at Pitt Street), 866-811-4111, abronsartscenter.org, \$20-\$25

