

## THEATER

# Be on the watch for whales

BY F. KATHLEEN FOLEY

## 'Moby Dick' haunts Topanga

**The essentials:** Actors grouse when their manager announces that they will be performing "Moby-Dick" instead of the scheduled "King Lear." However, the ensemble, clad in contemporary attire and using found objects for props, warms to its imaginatively impromptu performance of Melville's classic tale about a one-legged sea captain whose obsessive pursuit of a demonic white whale dooms his crew.

**Why this?** Typically performed on an indoor stage with just a few performers, Welles' obscure piece has been resurrected by director Ellen Geer and recalibrated for a large cast at the Theatricum. Geer's actors will use "every object available" to create "benches and ropes and crashing masts" — all part of the stripped-down but atmospheric staging. The result should be an amusing exhibition under the stars.

**Details:** Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga. In repertory through Sept. 29. \$26-\$42. (310) 455-3723. [theatricum.com](http://theatricum.com)



IAN FLANDERS

**THE NOVEL** "Moby-Dick" comes alive in Topanga Canyon. Michael McFall, left, and Dane Oliver costar.