OVRE ARTS SINFONIA, Sept. 8 / This contemporary chamber ensemble forays into dance with the premieres of The Alkemon, Luke Mayernick’s two-act opus inspired by an ancient Russian legend, and Blake Ragghianti’s Infinity, a full orchestra ballet featuring an orator and choir. The event will feature performances by Pearlann Porter’s post-modern jazz-dance troupe PillowProject and by Texture Contemporary Ballet, a classically trained ensemble directed by Alan Obuzor. (CAPA auditorium, Ninth Street and Fort Duquesne Boulevard, downtown; ovrearts.org; pillowproject.org; textureballet.org)

CORNINGWORKS, Sept. 12-16 / The 2012 Glue Factory Project premieres The Life & Death of Little Fifi, a collaborative dance-theater work developed by Beth Corning, director of Corningworks, and Marina Harris, co-director of Canada’s Company X Puppet Theater. Performed by three seasoned dance artists and six puppets, the hour-long production (appropriate for mature audiences) explores the human desire to be loved. (Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh, 10 Children’s Way, North Side; 412/441-3273; corningworks.org)

KELLY-STRAHORN THEATER: Sept. 14-15 / Via sketch comedy, spoken word, video projections, animation, live music and dance, troupe Camille A. Brown and Dancers examines mainstream media’s stereotyping of African-American entertainers from minstrel show clichés to satirical game shows to a summing solo for Brown via Mr. Tol E. Rice. (5941 Penn Ave., East Liberty; 412/363-3000, kelly-strahorn.org; camilleabrown.org)

“IMPERFECT HEALTH: THE MEDICALIZATION OF ARCHITECTURE,” Sept. 15- Feb. 24 / Health care has been in the national spotlight like never before, and here in Pittsburgh, our medical resources provide not only a source of international attention and local pride, but also a propellant for the regional economy. Offering additional insight into this permanent and dynamic aspect of contemporary culture is “Imperfect Health,” the U.S. premiere of an unusual exhibition at Carnegie Mellon University.

This show is driven by our age of medical anxiety — riddled with concerns ranging from diseases and pollution, to aging and epidemics. It proposes solutions and offers hope. Architecture, urban design and landscape design are addressing these fears, incorporating medical issues and related concerns in their projects,” write curators Giovanna Borasi and Mirko Zardin. Ideas by architects, artists, designers and more have been assembled to present possible “cures,” including allergy-free gardens, better stewardship of natural resources, green building and more. Here’s to our health! (Miller Gallery, Purnell Center for the Arts, CMU, Forbes Avenue, Oakland; opening reception: Sept. 14; 412/268-3618, millergallery.cmu.edu)

“WHISTLER & REBELLION IN THE ART WORLD,” Through Dec. 2 / What would his mother say? The defiance of artistic convention by James Abbot McNeill Whistler is the focus of this show assembled from Carnegie Museum of Art’s print collection. (Pittsburgh Glass Center, 5472 Penn Ave., Friendship; 412/365-2145, pittsburghglasscenter.org)