

# Theater

Edited by  
Katie  
Goldsmith

## BROADWAY

### PREVIEWS AND OPENINGS

#### CIRQUE DREAMS JUNGLE FANTASY

Aerialists, jugglers, acrobats, musicians, and contortionists perform in an energetic jungle-themed circus display. \$26.50-\$96.50. Mon., Thurs.-Sat. at 8, Tues. and Sun. at 7, Sat. and Sun. at 2. In previews for a 6/26 opening. *Broadway Theatre, 1681 Broadway, nr. 52nd St. (212-239-6222).*

### NOW PLAYING

#### AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY ★

Tracy Letts's new play, presented by the Steppenwolf Theatre Company, is a landmark extended-family drama—what O'Neill would be writing today. (McCarter; 12/17/07) \$26.50-\$99.50. Tues.-Sat. at 7:30, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. *Imperial Theatre, 249 W. 45th St., nr. Eighth Ave. (212-239-6200).*

#### AVENUE Q ★

Puppets and humans deal humorously with racism, Schadenfreude, and life in 2004's upset Best Musical Tony winner. \$46.25-\$111.25. Mon.-Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2, Sun. at 7. *John Golden Theatre, 252 W. 45th St., nr. Seventh Ave. (212-239-6200).*

#### BOEING-BOEING

Christine Baranski, Mark Rylance, and Bradley Whitford star in Marc Camoletti's sixties comedy about the romantic misadventures of an architect. \$26.50-\$99.50. Tues.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. *Longacre Theatre, 220 W. 48th St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).*

#### A CATERED AFFAIR

Harvey Fierstein's new musical about a Bronx family in the fifties choosing between a new business and a big wedding, with music by John Bucchino. \$29.50-\$119.50. Mon.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. *Walter Kerr Theatre, 219 W. 48th St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).*

#### CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

Tennessee Williams's classic about a dysfunctional Mississippi family, directed by Debbie Allen and starring Terrence Howard, Anika Noni Rose, James Earl Jones, and Phylicia Rashad. \$61.50-\$96.50. Tues. at 7, Wed.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. *Broadhurst Theatre, 235 W. 44th St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).*

#### CHICAGO ★

Stylish production of the delightfully lurid show about female murderers in a Jazz Age prison. \$59-\$111.50. Tues. and Sun. at 7, Mon., Wed.-Sat. at 8, Sat. at 2, Sun. at 2:30. *Ambassador Theatre, 219 W. 49th St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).*

#### A CHORUS LINE ★

Bob Avian's well-meaning revival of Michael Bennett's record-shattering musical is more effective than explosive, and the only completely satisfying performance belongs to Michael Berresse (Zach). But its images are so iconic, its legend so well known, even as it loses its innovative flash, its stature grows. (McCarter; 10/16/06) \$86.25-\$111.25. Tues. at 7, Wed.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. *Schoenfeld Theatre, 236 W. 45th St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).*

#### THE COUNTRY GIRL

Morgan Freeman seems a natural fit for the role of Frank Elgin, an alcoholic actor trying to stay dry long enough to learn his lines and open a new show. Frances McDormand captures the stoic devotion of Frank's wife, Georgie, and Peter Gallagher does a fine job conveying the determination of Frank's director in Mike Nichols's revival. (McCarter; 5/2/08) \$76.50-\$100. Tues.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. *Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre, 242 W. 45th St., nr. Eighth Ave. (212-239-6200).*

#### CRY-BABY

Musical adaptation of John Waters's quirky film about rebellious fifties teenagers, with songs by David Javerbaum and Adam Schlesinger and a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan. \$36.50-\$54. Mon.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2. *Marquis Theatre, 1535 Broadway, nr. 46th St. (212-307-4100).*

#### CURTAINS

This backstage-murder mystery from John Kander and the late Fred Ebb has a pleasant score, a couple of solid

jokes, and some fine performances, notably by David Hyde Pierce and Debra Monk. In the past, a musical that commits no real sins would be welcome. But you may find yourself wondering why on earth you're watching it today. (McCarter; 4/2/07) \$61.50-\$111.50. Tues. at 7, Wed.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. *Al Hirschfeld Theatre, 302 W. 45th St., nr. Eighth Ave. (212-239-6200).*

#### GLORY DAYS

A new musical by Broadway newcomers Nick Blaemire (music and lyrics) and James Gardiner (book) about four friends who have a rocky reunion a year after high-school graduation. \$97.50. Schedule varies; call for details. *Cirque in the Square Theatre, 235 W. 50th St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).*

#### GREASE

Reality TV meets Broadway in this revival starring Matt Stone and Trey Parker. The original were chosen as the best of the best. *Boyz n the City Theatre, 245 W. 52nd St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).*

*...same name, with Alan Menken. \$51.50-\$111.25. Tues.-Sat. at 8, Wed.-Sat. at 2, Sun. at 3. *Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, 149 W. 45th St., nr. Broadway (212-307-4747).**

*...Shakespeare's tale of unparalleled ambition, transferred uptown from a hit run at BAM. \$51.50-\$101.50. Through 6/29. Tues. at 8, Wed.-Sat. at 2 and 8, Sun. at 3. *Lyceum Theatre, 149 W. 45th St., nr. Broadway (212-239-6200).**

*...Mamma Mia! Cobbed together from Abba's greatest hits, it's the prototype for jukebox-musical success. If only it felt less like a carpentry project—*Let's see how we can make that song follow this one!*—and more like actual theater. \$57-\$111.25. Wed.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 2 and 7. *Winter Garden Theatre, 1634 Broadway, at 50th St. (212-563-5544).**

*...Mary Poppins While the stage magic is astonishing (if clumsily deployed), there's no charm to speak of in this adaptation of the film: Disney has tried too hard to make a serious musical. (McCarter; 11/27/06) \$25-\$120. Wed.-Sat. at 8, Wed. and Sat. at 2, Sun. at 1 and 6:30. *New Amsterdam Theatre, 214 W. 42nd St., nr. Broadway (212-307-4747).**

*...The Mènage à Trois Kicking off its ninth season, Women's Expressive Theater stages a racy romp to please all genders. Brooke Berman's *A Perfect Couple* charts the course of a summer-weekend getaway gone awry, when friends and fiancés reveal secrets, question each other's loyalty, and test the boundaries of modern love. Director Maria Mileaf aims to follow up on her L.A. hit, Wendy Wasserstein's *Third. Opens June 19 at the DR2.**

*...In the Heights ★ Lin-Manuel Miranda's new musical, developed in a hit Off Broadway run, about the dreams of a tight community living in Washington Heights. \$21.50-\$111.50. Tues.-Sat. at 8, Sat. and Sun. at 2, Sun. at 7. *Richard Rodgers Theatre, 226 W. 46th St., nr. Broadway (212-307-4100).**

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**THE MÉNAGE À TROIS**

**Postcards From Upstate**

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**ABOUT THESE LISTINGS** Capsule reviews, where noted, are drawn from columns by Jeremy McCarter; others are by *New York's* editors. Stars (★) indicate recommended fare. Bullets (●) indicate shows closing this week. Wallet-watchers should keep in mind the TKTS booths, where discount tickets are available (for that day's performance only) to many Broadway and Off Broadway shows. TKTS booths are on 46th Street near Broadway and in South Street Seaport at the corner of Front and John Streets; visit [tdf.org](http://tdf.org) for more information.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SUSAN SHACTER