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Chicago theatre reviews

Six productions are set to take the stage in Chicago's vibrant theatre scene: 'ART' at Theater Wit delves into the intricate world of art and friendship through Yasmina Reza's sharp wit, while At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen explores Blackness, southern queerness, and drag culture at Raven Theatre. Berlin, an original commission based on Jason Lutes's graphic novel, captures the decline of Weimar Germany amidst rising fascism. Meanwhile, Grace navigates her family dynamics in The Border, Retta and Reggie face unexpected tensions in Everything Goes As Expected, and Ms. Howard's powerful new work unfolds at Center on Halsted. Call Me Elizabeth examines Elizabeth Taylor's life and career through an intimate conversation with her biographer. Cats, inspired by T.S. Eliot's poems, takes audiences on a fantastical journey into the world of Jellicle Cats, while Chicago Kids Company presents a musical adaptation of Chicken Little at the Apollo Theater. Additionally, The Artistic Home's CUT TO THE CHASE features six new plays that ponder the theme 'what is real?' This year's Cut to the Chase brings dynamic theater to an intimate space with its cast of 13. The action-packed novel on stage sees Professor Robert Langdon and cryptologist Sophie Neveu racing against time to uncover Da Vinci's secrets in this Chicago regional premiere. Ghostlight Ensemble Theatre Co. at Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro appears nondescript, but it has a secret: this ordinary bar can transport you anywhere in time, albeit only within its walls. It may not be the most popular spot, but those seeking to reach out to the past or future find solace here. The Drunk Shakespeare Society takes center stage at Saint Sebastian Players' St. Bonaventure Church production. Five classically trained actors meet as members of this society, with one member having had at least five shots of whiskey. As they attempt to perform a major role in a Shakespearean play, hilarity and mayhem ensue. Taylor Mac's world view intersects with Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus at Chicago Children's Theatre's The Station production. Set after the gruesome conclusion of Titus Andronicus, two lowly servants are tasked with cleaning up bodies amidst a war-torn country. Chicago Children's Theatre brings Go Dog Go! to life in a joyous, inventive musical romp. This bilingual debut follows delightful dogs as they drive, swim, and play baseball on their way to the big dog party. The Impostors Theatre Company at The Den Theatre presents Helena & Hermia & the Enamored Odyssey, a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream set in Harken's Hold, England. Dream with a fresh folkloric twist as this lively adaptation of the classic tale brings whimsy and enchantment to the stage. Hermia defies her father's orders to marry a man she doesn't love, fleeing into the enchanted Far Forest with her true love. Their journey is fraught with chaos driven by shifting affections and the ire of the forest's mystical inhabitants. An amateur acting troupe joins them on this magical adventure, blending original songs, humor, and themes of love and self-discovery. The show is a highly recommended must-see, but don't forget to wear a mask for added safety, as theatres in the Theater District now require it. With rave reviews from Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, and Talkin Broadway, this production is sure to delight audiences of all ages. Whether you're a seasoned theatre-goer or just looking for a fun night out, Helena & Hermia in The Enamored Odyssey has everything you need to enjoy the show. The Impostors Theatre Company at The Den Theatre received highly recommended reviews from various publications, including the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Times, and Chicago Reader. It was also praised by Chicago Theatre Review, Buzz Center Stage, and Third Coast Review. Other notable productions include Victory Gardens Theater's biographical plays, such as "Biograph A Jukebox for the Algonquin" and "A Tale of Two Cities", which received highly recommended reviews from publications like Around The Town Chicago and Chicago Theatre Review. The Citadel Theatre Company's Kairos was also well-reviewed by Stage and Cinema. The Red Theater at The Edge Off-Broadway's "The Magic Parlour" and "Million Dollar Quartet" were highly recommended, as were productions like "Prayer for the French Republic", "Scary Town", and "Teatro ZinZanni: Love, Chaos and Dinner". Meanwhile, Northlight Theatre's "Allie and the After Party" received a recommended review from Chicago Reader. Chicago's top-rated shows include Titanique, Titanic The Musical, and Misery, with highly-recommended reviews from major publications such as Splash Magazine, Chicago Tribune, and Chicago Sun Times. These productions have been praised for their engaging performances, creepy atmospheres, and artistic integrity. American Blues Theater's Misery production has received particular attention, with critics noting its suffocating tension, sinister dialogue, and bloodbath denouement. Other notable shows include Translations, Broadway Playhouse, and Writers Theatre, which have garnered recommendations from top reviewers. Helena Kays' masterful direction brings a fresh perspective to "Misery", elevating it beyond its original form. According to Chicago Theatre Review, this production is a must-see, with reviewers praising the suspenseful and horrifying experience that keeps audiences on the edge of their seats. As Paul Sheldon's "Number One Fan" becomes his deadliest enemy, viewers are left wondering if he'll survive Annie Wilkes' rural prison. While some critics, like Third Coast Review, acknowledge that "Misery" might be one of Stephen King's most adapted works due to its single-bedroom setting and idiosyncratic characters, they still commend the production for bringing this tale to life. Chicago On Stage praises the show as a thrilling experience, while Chicago Culture Authority notes that it's a rare instance where they've found themselves squirming in their seat at the theater. NewCity Chicago highlights the incredible performances by ensemble members Steve Key and Wandachristine, who bring wit and tension to the stage. The play's success is attributed to Goldman's script, which captures the same sharpness as his movie adaptation. Daily Herald recommends the production, praising director Johanna McKenzie Miller's sweetly sung revival of "Cinderella", featuring Molly Bremer in her Metropolis debut. Around The Town Chicago commends Brewer's remarkable performance as Cinderella, emphasizing that the show is worth seeing just for her singing and acting. Lines that showcase her softer side add depth to the narrative, while tempering her meanness with humor makes it more palatable for younger viewers.