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Sunday, November 3, 2002

**Stage Calendar**

Capsule reviews by Paul Hodgins (PH) and Eric Marchese (EM)

**Previewing**

**"Big River - The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"** - Deaf West Theatre production of the musical, adapted from the novel by Mark Twain. Previews: Tue.-Nov. 12, 8 p.m.; Sat. 2:30 p.m. Dark Mondays. \$35-\$40. Regular run: Nov. 14-Dec. 29. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 7:30 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2:30 p.m. Also, Nov. 25, Dec. 23, 8 p.m.; Dec. 26, 2:30 p.m. Dark Nov. 19-22, 28, Dec. 24-25. Mark Taper Forum, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. \$35-\$50. (213) 628-2772.

**"The Violet Hour"** - South Coast Repertory stages the world premiere the Richard Greenberg play. Previews: Tue.-Thu. \$19-\$37. Opening night: Fri. Regular run: Through Nov. 24. Tue.-Sun. 7:45 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2 p.m. SCR's Julianne Argyros Stage, 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. \$27-\$54. (714) 708-5555.

**Opening**

**"The Spitfire Grill"** - Laguna Playhouse presents the West Coast premiere of the James Valcq-Fred Alley musical. Today-Dec. 1. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 2 p.m., Sun. 7 p.m. (No evening performance Dec. 1.) 606 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. \$42-\$49. (949) 497-ARTS.

**Continuing**

**Major stages**

**"Giulio Cesare"** - Societas Raffaello Sanzio presents the exclusive West Coast staging of Romeo Castellucci's controversial adaptation of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." Today, 7 p.m. Freud Playhouse, University of California, Los Angeles, Westwood. \$40. (310) 825-2101.

**"Jesus Christ Superstar"** - McCoy Rigby Entertainment stages this famous rock opera that features the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. Through Nov. 17. Tue.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2:30 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. (No evening performance today) La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada. \$30-\$38. (714) 994-6310.

**"Latinologues"** - San Diego REP presents award-winning writer Rick Najera's raucous and quirky collection of monologues on the Latino experience. Through Nov. 24. Tue. 7 p.m., Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. Also, Nov. 23, 2 p.m. Lyceum Space Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, San Diego. \$12-\$40. (619) 544-1000.

**"The Lion King"** - Theater designer and director Julie Taymor creates a world that captures the dry, danger-filled savannah of the film and adds its own magical dimension, with music by Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice. Taymor's masterwork redefines musical theater while returning it to its roots (and determinedly away from the glitzy, quasi-cinematic excesses of Lloyd Webber and his imitators). A must-see for anyone who believes in theater's powers of transformation and wonder. (PH) Runs indefinitely. Tue. 7 p.m., Wed.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m., Sun. 1 & 6:30 p.m. Pantages Theatre, 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood. \$10-\$125. (714) 703-2510.

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**"Major Barbara"** - South Coast Repertory presents the George Bernard Shaw classic. Through Nov. 17. Tue.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2:30 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Segerstrom Stage, 655 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa. \$19-\$54. (714) 708-5555.

**"Mame"** - Musical Theatre West production of this flashback to the Roaring '20s, with music by Jerry Herman. Through Nov. 17. Thu.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. Also, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center, 6200 Atherton St., Long Beach. \$20-\$45. (562) 430-2324.

**"Mamma Mia!"** - Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus' hit musical based on the songs of ABBA. Through Nov. 23. Tue.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7:30 p.m. Ahmanson Theatre, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. \$25-\$80. (213) 628-2772.

**"The Music Man"** - Southeast Civic Light Opera presents Meredith Willson's Broadway musical about a salesman con-artist who tricks an entire town into getting money for band instruments and uniforms. Today, 2 p.m.; Thu.-Sat. 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 10, 2 p.m. The Playhouse, Liberty Performing Arts Centre, Joint Forces Training Base, between Los Alamitos Boulevard and Lexington Drive, Los Alamitos. \$8-\$15. (714) 827-9141.

**"Peter and Wendy"** - La Jolla Playhouse stages the San Diego premiere of Mabou Mines' reconception of J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan." Through Nov. 10. Tue.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla. \$39-\$49. (858) 550-1010.

**"1776"** - Lamb's Players Theatre presents Sherman Edwards' musical version of the creation and signing of the Declaration of Independence. Through Nov. 10. Tue.-Thu. 7:30 p.m., Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 4:30 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado. \$20-\$40. (619) 437-0600.

#### O.C. smaller stages

**"Blood Wedding"** - Stages Theatre production of Federico Garcia Lorca's darkly moody 1933 drama. Through Nov. 24. Fri-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 5 p.m. 400 E. Commonwealth, Fullerton. \$12-\$15. (714) 525-4484.

**"The Foreigner"** - Huntington Beach Playhouse production of the Larry Shue comedy about a timid Englishman in rural Georgia who, thanks to a series of misunderstandings, finds himself gaining a new, more extroverted personality. Through Nov. 17. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sat. 3 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. \$13-\$16. (714) 375-0696.

**"The King"** - Brian Newell's musical spectacular starring Elvis. Through Dec. 14. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 & 7 p.m. The Maverick Theater, 20 City Blvd. West, Orange. \$15-\$18. (714) 634-1977.

**"A Party to Murder"** - Cabrillo Playhouse stages Marcia Kash and Douglas E. Hughes' thriller. Through Nov. 10. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 202 Avenida Cabrillo, San Clemente. \$14. (949) 492-0465.

**"Picasso at the Lapin Agile"** - Costa Mesa Civic Playhouse production of Steve Martin's fictional meeting of Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein. Through Nov. 17. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 661 Hamilton St. \$15. (949) 650-5269.

**"Things That Go Bump"** - Rude Guerrilla Theater Company stages the world premiere of an original commedia dell'arte show. Rude G's fast-paced show - partly scripted, partly improvised - has a decidedly risqué tone, a la burlesque. With just the mere trappings of the classic commedia, it puts the silly back into the phrase "scared silly." (EM) Through today. Today, 2:30 p.m. The Empire Theater, 200 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. \$12-\$15; \$7.50 on Halloween if you arrive in costume. (714) 547-4688.

#### L.A. smaller stages

**"Alagazam"** - The Actors' Gang stages Adam Simon and Tim Robbins' comedy. Through Dec. 21. Fri.-Sat. 10 p.m. 6209 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. \$12. (323) 465-0566, Ext. 15.

**"All Men Are Dogs"** - Dailey Pike's new musical comedy that follows the travails of a harried, downtrodden housewife and mother as she attempts to reclaim the attention of her philandering husband. A rough-edged, minimally staged debut production, unevenly cast, undermines this T-and-A show's modest charms. (PH) Through Nov. 16. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m. Coronet Studio, 366 North La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles. \$20. (310) 657-7377.

**"The Exonerated"** - The Actors' Gang stages Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen's new drama, based on real-life experiences, about people who were wrongly convicted of capital crimes and spent time on death row before being found innocent and freed. Through Nov. 24. Sat. 7 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. 6209 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. \$20-\$25. (323) 465-0566, Ext. 15.

**"The Grapes of Wrath"** - West Coast Ensemble presents Frank Galati's Tony Award-winning adaptation of John Steinbeck's landmark novel. Through Nov. 17. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m. 522 N. La Brea Ave., Hollywood. \$20-\$22. (323) 525-0022.

**"The Guys"** - The Actors' Gang presents a staged reading of the Anne Nelson play. Resumes Nov. 26. Runs indefinitely. Tue.-Fri. 7 p.m. 6209 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. \$30. (323) 465-0566, Ext. 15.

**"The Hungry Woman: A Mexican Medea"** - Celebration Theatre co-presents the world premiere of L.A. native Cherríe Moraga's drama. Through Nov. 23. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m. Celebration Theatre, 7051B Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood. \$15-\$20. (323) 957-1884.

**"Late Nite Catechism"** - A playful comedy that pokes fun of Catholic schools and Catholicism. Runs indefinitely. Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m. Upstairs at the Coronet, Coronet Theatre, 368 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood. \$20-\$35. (310) 372-4477.

**"Macbeth"** - A Noise Within presents the Shakespeare work. Through Nov. 30. Wed.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. 234 S. Brand Blvd., Glendale. \$22-\$38. (818) 240-0910.

**"Man of La Mancha"** - Actors Co-op production of Dale Wasserman's musical. Through Nov. 17. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2:30 p.m. Crossley Terrace Theatre, 1760 N. Gower St., Hollywood. \$20-\$25. (323) 462-8460.

**"Suburb, The Musical"** - Long Beach Playhouse presents the West Coast premiere of Robert S. Cohen and David Javerbaum's musical comedy. Through Nov. 23. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m. Also, Nov. 10, 17, 2 p.m. Studio Theatre, 5021 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach. \$18-\$20. (562) 494-1014.

**"The Triumph of Love"** - A Noise Within stages Pierre Marivaux's 18th-century comedy. Through Dec. 5. Wed.-Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. Glendale's Masonic Temple, 234 S. Brand Blvd. \$22-\$38. (818) 240-0910.

**"willie, mickey & the duke"** - California Repertory Company presents Howard Burman and Matt Vinson's doo-wop musical. Through Nov. 23. Tue.-Thu. 7 p.m., Fri. 8 p.m., Sat. 2 & 8 p.m. Edison Theatre, 213 E. Broadway, Long Beach. \$15-\$20. (562) 985-7000.

## University and

### high school stages

**"The Crucible"** - Santa Ana College presents Arthur Miller's powerful drama about the Puritan purge of witchcraft in old Salem. Today, 2:30 p.m. Phillips Hall Theatre, 1530 W. 17th St., Santa Ana. \$6-\$10. (714) 564-5661.

**"Holiday"** - Golden West College presents Philip Barry's comedy. Through Nov. 16. Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 3 p.m. GWC, Mainstage Theater, 15744 Golden West St., Huntington Beach. \$9-\$11. (714) 895-8150.

**"The Laramie Project"** - California State University, Fullerton, production of Moisés

Kaufman's play, which is based on the events surrounding the recent hate crime that shattered this small Wyoming town. Today, 5 p.m. CSUF's Grand Central Theatre, 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana. \$5-\$10. (714) 278-3371.

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