

ENTERTAINMENT

Witches, laughs, music & rediscovery: 8 shows at Cape Cod theaters



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Reviews

Review: 'Carousel'

Written by: Oscar Hammerstein II with music by Richard Rodgers, presented by Falmouth Theatre Guild

What it's about: Based on the 1909 play “Liliom,” this 1945 Broadway musical is set in a coastal Maine community and tells the tragic love story of carousel worker Billy Bigelow and mill worker Julie Jordan. Mistakes are made along the way, and more importantly, there is a chance at redemption.

See it or not? This three-hour, one-intermission “Carousel” features a number of great performances and songs that will stay with you long after the curtain falls. While not Rodgers & Hammerstein’s best show, a number of this production’s ensemble musical performances are filled with dazzling vocals, music and often humor. Look for “Blow High, Blow Low” as one of the highlights.

Highlight of the show: There are a number of stunning voices, including Sara Sneed as Julie Jordan, who performs songs that include “What’s the Use of Wond’rin”; Alex Valentine as Enoch Snow in “When the Children are Asleep”; and Bonnie Fairbanks as Nettie Fowler, with the captivating “June is Bustin’ Out All Over.”

Fun facts: “Carousel” was Rodgers and Hammerstein’s favorite play from a list that includes “Oklahoma,” “South Pacific,” and “The Sound of Music.” Director Laura Garner has always had a special spot in her heart for “Carousel” and tried to stage it twice before in Falmouth. Once, she was stopped by a rights issue; the second time, the COVID-19 pandemic got in the way. “Carousel” is truly her passion project.

Worth noting: Despite performing at various other theaters on the Cape or beyond, both Beau Jackett, who plays Billy, and Lizzie Raider, who gives stunning voice to Carrie Pipperridge, are making their Falmouth Theatre Guild debuts.

One more thing: There is a domestic violence element in the play, which Garner addresses in the show program. The violent act does not occur on stage in this production, but is discussed by Julie and reverberates through part of the play.

If you go: 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 7 at the Highfield Theater, 58 Highfield Drive, Falmouth; \$23, \$21 for age 62+, \$19 for under age 18; www.falmouththeatreguild.org, 508-548-0400.

Jay Pateakos

Review: 'Good & Kissed'

Written and performed by: Miranda Jonté, presented by the Cotuit Center for the Arts

What it's about: This one-person, autobiographical show, directed by Kerry Flanagan, showcases a woman “on the back end of 30” sharing the intimacies and regrets of a lifetime – so far. They include relationships borne of habit and

desperation that left her empty, vulnerable and unsure of her own viability as a woman, as a human being. After a long-term relationship dissolves, she tries on a bunch of others, seeking her own self-worth.

See it or not: This monodrama is eminently relatable (who hasn't lived through relationship lies and heartache?), funny, poignant and entertaining. The script tends to rely too much on crude language and clichés at times, but, overall, it is an engaging 60 minutes of theater.

Highlight of the show: Miranda Jonté is a true talent, captivating the audience with a story that is, truth be told, not all that earth-shattering. Her charisma and passion carry the evening, which leans towards confessional at times.

Fun fact: This play was initially an autobiographical Facebook post that went viral. A literary manager read it, and asked Miranda to develop it for the stage.

Worth noting: Jonte starred in the center's streaming video series "Teacher of the Year," and creating this production included others involved in that show.

One more thing: You need to have proof of COVID-19 vaccination to attend; masks are still recommended in the small space.

If you go: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Nov. 7 at the Vivian and Morton Sigel Black Box Theater, Cotuit Center For the Arts, 4404 Falmouth Road; \$25, \$20 for members; 508-428-0669, www.artsonthecape.org. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required for entrance.

Carol Panasci

Review: "Ha!"

Written by: Rich Orloff, presented by Eventide Theatre Company

What it's about: This is a little package of three one-act comedies, taking the audience to Ancient Greece, with a quick detour to pre-revolutionary Russia, then on to a dimension beyond the realm of space and time. So in case you were wondering how the whole Oedipus complex really got its name, how the class war in Russia actually developed, and exactly what the Almighty is like — in person — here's your chance to find out.

Highlight of the show: The five cast members transform themselves from one act to the next, taking on new roles in each of the vignettes. For example, David Simpson is Oedipus in the first act, a Russian servant/peasant in the second, and in the third, God (cleverly disguised as a university student presenting his Master's thesis). Then there's Steve Ross, who is a blind seer in the first act, a Russian physician in the second and a beer-swigging Everyman in the last. It's always a pleasure to see actors skillfully take on multiple roles.

Fun fact: Author Rich Orloff is a graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio, which played a key role in the development of Falmouth's Gilbert and Sullivan Players and eventually the College Light Opera Company.

Worth noting: The diminutive Gertrude Lawrence Stage at the Dennis Union Church is the perfect venue for this kind of light and causal production.

One more thing: You'll need a mask and proof of vaccination to comply with the group's COVID-19 policy.

If you go: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays through Oct. 31 at Dennis Union Church, 713 Main St. (Route 6A), Dennis. 508-233-2148; \$28; www.eventidearts.org.

Sue Mellen

What's new

Halloween witches and comedy

Cape Cod Theatre Company/Harwich Junior Theatre has two Halloween offerings, one geared toward children and one for an older crowd. "The Wacky Witches Garden Party" will be held in the outdoor theater, with guests helping those wacky witches prepare for their annual Halloween soiree. The 25-minute shows, aimed at age pre-K and up, are at 4 p.m. Fridays through Sundays through Oct. 31, with tickets (\$10) sold in groups of 10 traveling through the event every 15 minutes.

Inside the theater is Improv Cape Cod's "Halloween Sketch Comedy Show (Spooky, Sketchy, Scary People and Things)." Shows, appropriate for teens and older, are at 7 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays through Oct. 23. Tickets: \$10; Information: www.improvcapecod.com.

The theater is located at 105 Division St., West Harwich. Reservations and information on both shows: 508-432-2002, www.capecodtheatrecompany.org.

'FACB' goes to South Yarmouth

Christine Ernst continues her Cape tour of her latest "Fat Ass Cancer Bitch" show with a performance at 7 p.m. Friday of "FACB 2021: Unmute Yourself!" at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod, 307 Old Main St., South Yarmouth. This 10th annual show that's part stand-up, part storytelling is described as "irreverent, mouthy, no-holds-barred humor and story" that is rated PG "for language, nerve." Tickets: \$25; Information: www.cultural-center.org, 508-394-7100. Patrons must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test conducted within 72 hours prior to the event.

New company debuts with 'The Witch!'

The new Campfire Quorum group's first show is a new version of the 1616 play "The Witch" by Thomas Middleton, reimagined as a play that the women of the Mayflower perform after they sneak away from the men under the guise of doing laundry.

Shows are at 4:30 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays through Oct. 24 and are held at "The Woods" performance venue along the Old Colony Nature Pathway at 63 Rear Howland St., Provincetown. Proof of vaccination is required for all patrons ages 12 and over. Tickets: \$30; Information: www.campfirequorum.org, 508-687-2267.

Cape Rep reopens indoor theater with a love story

After a summer and fall of outdoor theater, Cape Rep Theatre in Brewster will reopen its indoor theater with Ken Ludwig's love story "Dear Jack, Dear Louise," about two strangers who meet by letter during World War II and their subsequent courtship (based on the lives of Ludwig's parents). Starring will be Cape Rep veterans Jade Schuyler and Lewis D. Wheeler.

Shows, directed by Art Devine, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays at the theater, 3299 Route 6A, Brewster. Tickets: \$25; Reservations and information: 508-896-1888, www.caperrep.org. All patrons will be required to show proof of vaccination, and be required to wear a mask during performances.

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