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ON STAGE

"The Adventure of the Speckled Band" through Aug. 4, Main Street Productions, 1836 W. SR 32, Westfield; www.westfieldplayhouse.org

"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," through Aug. 18, Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, 9301 N. Michigan Road; www.beefandboards.com

"Mary Jane," through Aug. 18, Summit Performance at Phoenix Theatre, 705 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis; phoenixtheatre.org

OPENING

"The Rocky Horror Show" (Play-A-Part Fundraiser) through Aug. 4 Buck Creek Players, 11150 Southeastern Ave. (Acton Road exit off I-74), Indianapolis, www.buckcreekplayers.com.

"Nonsense II" through Aug. 11, Shelby County Players, Strand Theatre, 215 S. Harrison, Shelbyville; shelbycountyplayers.com

"Bring it On" (Young Adults production) Aug. 9-18, Footlite Musicals, 1847 N. Alabama St., Indianapolis; footlite.org

"1984," Aug. 9-18, Monument Theatre company at Indy Convergence, 2611 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis; monumenttheatrecompany.com

IndyFringe Festival, Aug. 14-25 at multiple venues; www.indyfringe.org

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Theatre Bulletin

Indianapolis and Central Indiana

No. 0002 – July 31, 2019

PWJW <3 GenCon

We bring up the GenCon Game Fair, Thursday through Sunday, in this space not only because John and Wendy love to play games, but also because the incredibly packed schedule includes a lot of performers -- musicians, improv, comedy, and even Indy playwright Casey Ross with her "ArcadeFire! The Redemption of Billy Mitchell," and appearances by the actual King of Kong himself. See you downtown!

Brew-Ha-Ha cancelled

The Phoenix Theatre has called off its 24th Annual Brew Ha-Ha beer festival. The fundraiser had been moved to August (from its traditional date in June) and relocated to White River State Park. The Phoenix cited a lack of ticket pre-sales in its decision. Tickets already sold will be fully refunded at the Phoenix Theatre box office. Direct questions to events manager Iris Dillon at 317-635-2381 ext., 5 or idillon@phoenixtheatre.org.

BCP: Time will truly be Warped

Buck Creek Players presents its biannual Play-A-Part Fundraiser, in which all roles for a popular musical are "won" only by high bids in a silent auction -- no auditions (or even talent) necessary. As the result is already destined to be rather wacky, BCP ups the ante by producing **"The Rocky Horror Show"** (the stage musical, not a shadow-cast of the film). If you thought it was worthy of mockery when staged professionally, check out how it is now! There will be four performances, Friday through Sunday.

REVIEW: Feel the love of 'Mary Jane'

In the Summit Performance drama "Mary Jane," by acclaimed playwright Amy Herzog (staged Off-Broadway in 2017), the title character -- played with bold optimism by Bridget Haight -- is the primary caretaker for her nearly three-year-old son with cerebral palsy and other conditions likely caused by a brain-bleed during premature birth.

Presented on the intimate confines of the Basile Stage at the Phoenix Theatre, the play is presented without intermission (as intended) but its scenes present the narrative in two acts: In the first, we are in Mary Jane's apartment, which includes various medical equipment (much of it unseen behind Alex's door) and a visiting nurse. In the second, we are in a hospital which becomes for Mary Jane a sort of home -- her son still being cared for just off-stage. The "third act" is the audience's ride home, reflecting on what they have seen, heard and felt. Yes, it's that kind of play.

The cast includes Nathalie Cruz, Mara Lisabeth Malloy, Kelsey Johnson and Jan Lucas, each in dual roles. The play is directed by Summit founding artistic director Lauren Briggeman, who -- like Herzog -- has some understanding of being a caregiver. It's easy to see the devotion she and all involved had in giving their production genuine heart -- including many moments of appropriately uplifting or soothing humor.

See full reviews at the website, www.playswithjohnandwendy.com