

Share this!

Permission granted to print, copy and distribute intact and unaltered.
Download at playswithjohnandwendy.com/pwjw

PWJW



PlaysWithJohnAndWendy.com

Facebook.com/playswithjohnandwendy

Don't see your company here?
Contact playswithjohnandwendy@gmail.com

ON STAGE

Pilgrims, thru Sept. 22, Storefront Theatre of Indianapolis, 717 Broad Ripple Ave.; storefrontindy.com

"Steel Magnolias," through Sept. 28, Mud Creek Players, 9740 E. 86th St., Indianapolis; mudcreekplayers.org

"Twelve Angry Men," through Sept. 29, Indiana Repertory Theatre, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis; irtlive.com

"Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," thru Sept. 29, Actors Theatre of Indiana, The Studio Theater, 4 Center Green, Carmel; www.atistage.org

"Hairspray," through Oct. 6, Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, 9301 N. Michigan Road; www.beefandboards.com

"The Legend of Georgia McBride," through Oct. 6, Phoenix Theatre, 705 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis; phoenixtheatre.org

OPENING

"The Cocktail Hour," Sept. 19-29, Epilogue Players, 1849 N. Alabama St., Indy; epilogueplayers.com

"The Diviners," Sept. 20-Oct. 6, The Switch theatre in Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy, 10029 E. 126th St., Fishers; theswitchtheatre.com

"Trap," Sept. 27-Oct. 6, Buck Creek Players, 11150 Southeastern Ave., Indy; www.buckcreekplayers.com

"Ragtime," Sept. 27-Oct. 13, Footlite Musicals, 1847 N. Alabama St., Indianapolis; footlite.org

"The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance," Sept. 27-Oct. 13, Main Street Productions at Westfield Playhouse, 1836 W. SR 32, Westfield; westfieldplayhouse.org

"The Birds," Sept. 27-Oct. 13, NoExit Performance in The Power House at Central State Mansion, 202 Steeples Blvd., Indianapolis; noexitperformance.org

"The Wiz," Sept. 28-Oct. 6, Indiana Performing Arts Centre at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan, Indianapolis; ipacindy.org

Content copyright 2019
John Lyle Belden and Wendy Carson

Theatre Bulletin

Indianapolis & Central Indiana FREE No. 0009 – September 19, 2019

We always enjoy a good story

It's season opening time for more than just the plays and musicals. Storytelling Arts of Indiana gets its 2019-20 under way Saturday with **"Come Dance with Me in Ireland: A Pilgrimage to Yeats County"** told by Patrick Ball, at the Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio St. Get details of this and upcoming shows at storytellingarts.org.

REVIEWS

Edited; see full reviews online at www.playswithjohnandwendy.com

'Pilgrims' carry heavy baggage

"Pilgrims," opening Storefront Theatre of Indianapolis' season on its new Broad Ripple stage, is in the tradition of the best science-fiction stories, using a distant fantasy situation to probe questions about our present humanity.

Aboard the aptly named starliner, "Destiny," Ryan Ruckman solidly portrays a soldier, haunted and struggling with PTSD, returning as a migrant to the planet where he once fought its natives. Kelsey Leigh Miller, as his unexpected teenage roommate, puts her inner child on full display to excellent effect. Carrie Schlatter excellently portrays an android servant.

Numerous scenes and little revelations track the passing of time, as the couple's interactions – and perhaps something else – slowly change them, drawing them closer in unexpected yet inevitable ways. Among the beings of the "new world" (which the girl naively calls "aliens") there is no word for the concept of "regret," yet that is the biggest thing our Pilgrims bring with them.

The King turns Queen in 'Georgia McBride'

Phoenix Theatre opens its 2019-20 season with the fabulous Off-Broadway comedy, **"The Legend of Georgia McBride."** Just as Casey (Sam C. Jones), finally gets his Elvis impersonator act to work, bar manager Eddie (Ty Stover) changes the entertainment to a drag show featuring his cousin, Miss Tracy Mills (John Vessels).

When Tracy's fellow entertainer, Anna-Rexia Nervosa (Jonathan Studdard), can't go on, Casey is pressed into service in dress, wig and makeup, and Georgia McBride is born! But what will he tell his wife, Jo (Bridgette Ludlow)?

This play is loaded with both humor and heart, and drag scenes featuring clever musical mash-ups and wonderful costumes.

Mud Creek 'Magnolias'

A personal emergency forced John and Wendy to miss their date at the Mud Creek Players season opener, **"Steel Magnolias."** This heartfelt comic drama (also popular as the 1989 film) features an ensemble of Southern women, set around the local beauty parlor. It seems a natural fit for the Mud Creek "barn," and it's not too big a leap of faith to presume that this high-quality community theatre is giving the show the treatment it deserves.

Find our Fringe reviews at playswithjohnandwendy.com/2019/08/28/indyfringe-2019-reviews/