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ON STAGE

"**Ragtime**," through Oct. 13, Footlite Musicals, 1847 N. Alabama St., Indianapolis; footlite.org

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

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

"Mamma Mia!" through Oct. 19, Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre, Center for the Performing Arts, Carmel; civictheatre.org

"The Little Choo-Choo That Thinks She Can" (production for children), through Oct. 27, Indiana Repertory Theatre, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis; irtlive.com

"Little Shop of Horrors," through Nov. 18, Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, 9301 N. Michigan Road; www.beefandboards.com

OPENING

"And So We Walked: An Artist's Journey Along the Trail of Tears," Oct. 15-Nov. 10, Indiana Repertory Theatre, 140 W. Washington St., Indianapolis; irtlive.com

"Suspirium," Oct. 17-20, Phoenix Rising Dance Company at the Phoenix Theatre, 705 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis; tickets at phoenixtheatre.org

Bardfest (Shakespeare festival), Oct. 17-27 at IndyFringe and District Theatre; www. indybardfest.com

"The Brothers Paranormal," Oct. 18-Nov. 10, Fonseca Theatre, 2508 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis; fonsecatheatre.org

"Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," Oct. 18-27, Carmel Community Players, The CAT, 254 Veterans Way, Carmel; carmelplayers.org

Disney's "Alice in Wonderland Jr." (performances for children), Oct. 18-Nov. 2, Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, 9301 N. Michigan Road; www.beefandboards.com

"Vino Veritas," Oct. 24-Nov. 24, Phoenix Theatre, 705 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis; phoenixtheatre.org

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Theatre Bulletin

Indianapolis & Central Indiana FREE No. 0012 – October 15, 2019

Shakespeare festival includes Dane, kings and 'Tempest'

BardFest, Indianapolis' Shakespeare festival, opens Thursday and runs through October 27 with performances at the IndyFringe theater and the District Theatre on Massachusetts Ave. Now in its fifth year, the fest presents:

"Hamlet," presented by Carmel Theatre Company, adapted and directed by Doug Powers, featuring Brian Hartz in the title role. Considered William Shakespeare's masterpiece, Powers didn't cut much -- the two acts run 105 and 65 minutes -- and having a polished actor's perspective he has no doubt given his talented cast the freedom to give this drama their all.

"Henry IV, Part 1," presented by First Folio Productions, adapted by Ben Powers and BardFest executive director Glenn Dobbs. One of Shakespeare's "history" plays, this features the rowdy fan-favorite Sir John Falstaff (Matthew Socey) as well as young Prince Hal (Matthew Walls) in the days before he became King Henry V. In Dobbs' words, "This story is perfect. We have great speeches, beautiful songs, fantastic sword fights and more flatulence jokes than you can imagine."

"Lear's Shadow," also by First Folio, the regional premiere of a play by Brian Elderling of the Ensemble Shakespeare Theater in Pasadena, Calif., featuring passages from "King Lear." With a three-person cast and 70 minutes (no intermission) run time, this play "presents a modern day tale in a Los Angeles theatre rehearsal space," according to Dobbs.

"The Tempest," presented by Agape Performing Arts Company. This youth production promises a fair amount of spectacle as a large cast of teens and tweens present this story of mystery and intrigue involving a shipwreck on an exotic island. According to a Youtube trailer the company produced, these kids are indulging in interesting costumes and makeup, and considering the quality of past productions, including last year's "Midsummer Night's Dream," they are sure to entertain.

For more information, visit IndyBardFest.com. Next week, the PWJW Bulletin will feature our Bardfest reviews!

Fonseca stage to open at last

The Fonseca Theatre Company has provided quality stage experiences for the last year in the Haughville area of Indy's westside, and now they will do so in their new home!

The Basile Building (yet another stage supported by local philanthropists and theatre enthusiasts Frank and Katrina Basile) at 2508 W. Michigan, will hold its Grand Opening Friday with a ribbon-cutting hosted by Indy Chamber at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception. Then, opening night of FTC's **"The Brothers Paranormal"** will be on the Basile's new stage at 8 p.m. That performance has sold out, but at the 4 p.m. matinee Saturday, playwright Prince Gomolvilas is scheduled to attend and speak after the performance.

The comic drama tells the story of two Thai-American brothers who launch a ghost-hunting business in order to capitalize on the nationwide increase in sightings of Asian-looking ghosts. When the siblings end up investigating the home of an African American couple who claim to be haunted by one very terrifying spirit, everyone's notions of reality, fantasy, and sanity clash against the shocking truth.

For information and tickets, visit fonsecatheatre.org.