

Theater

For Poland's Teatr Zar, hearing is believing

Alternative troupe uses polyphony to tell the story

By Joel Brown

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

"There's a lot of great traditional theater in Boston, and we like to offer something that is alternative," says Jennifer Johnson, co-director of the Charlestown Working Theater.

You likely won't see anything more alternative this year than Poland's Teatr Zar, which performs "Caesarean Section" in its East Coast premiere Sunday through Wednesday at the Charlestown Working Theater. The troupe combines early Christian polyphony, onstage musicians, and concepts of theater and movement developed by the late Polish innovator Jerzy Grotowski. Oh, and there's a 20-foot line of broken glass in the middle of the stage. (Thanks, Diablo Glass School of Roxbury.)

CAESAREAN SECTION

Created by Teatr Zar

Presented by Charlestown Working Theater in partnership with Double Edge Theatre. At: Charlestown Working Theater, 442 Bunker Hill St., Charlestown, May 29-June 1. Tickets:



CRITICS' PICKS

THEATER

Now playing

RICHARD III and THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

Talk about your mood swings. Under the expert direction of Edward Hall, "Richard III" presents a shiver-inducing portrait of a silky psychopath (the excellent Richard Clothier) who kills his way to the top. By contrast, "Comedy" (also directed by Hall) delivers the simple pleasures of knockabout farce. "Richard III" is a must-see, "Comedy" is a should-see. Through June 19. Production by Propeller Theatre Company, presented by Boston University School of Theatre in association with Huntington Theatre Company. At Boston University Theatre. 617-266-0800, www.huntingtontheatre.org

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

Karen MacDonald, Thomas Derrah, Will McGarrahan, McCaela Donovan, Kerry A. Dowling, and the rest of the cast shine in this joyously goofy — or is it goofily joyous? — musical within a comedy. Extended to June 19. SpeakEasy Stage Company. Roberts Studio Theatre, Boston Center for the Arts. 617-933-8600, www.speakeasystage.com

ANIMAL CRACKERS

There are periods of sluggishness when this 1928 musical comedy shows its age, but verbal sparks fly when Ed Hoopman holds center stage as Captain Jeffrey T. Spaulding, a.k.a. Groucho Marx. Through June 4. Lyric Stage Company. 617-585-5678, www.lyricstage.com

DON AUCCOIN

Last chance

PETER PANSY

In this bawdy, adults-only musical version of J.M. Barrie's classic tale, Ryan Landry steps back and lets other performers shine, including regular members of his Gold Dust Orphans troupe and some new faces, such as Michael Wood in the title role. Through today. At Machine. 617-265-6222, www.brownpapertickets.com

TEBBY DUBNIK