

nytheatre picks a sampling of worthy shows

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BROADWAY PICKS

SWEENEY TODD:

Mark Develan, who may well be the definitive Sweeney Todd, and Elaine Paige co-star in New York City Opera's revival of Stephen Sondheim's musical about obsession.

DROWNING CROW:

One of the finest ensembles on Broadway brings Regina Taylor's new play to life. Inspired by *The Seagull* and set in the contemporary American South, it's a meditation on art, theatre, the differences and bonds between generations, and understanding your past.

MOVIN' OUT: Twyla Tharp weaves together two dozen Billy Joel songs to create a moving, compelling dance drama about the American generation that fought the War in Vietnam.

NEW AND NOTABLE

SMALL TRAGEDY: On the surface, Craig Lucas' new play is about a regional theatre company working on a new adaptation of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. But it's much deeper and more substantial--this is a play about nothing less than the way we deal with upheavals on the order of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

VAMPIRE COWBOY TRILOGY: Three hilarious live action cartoons, created by playwright Qui Nguyen and director Ross Parker. The titles tell all: "Jake Misco, Outer Borough Paranormal Detective," "Captain Justice and Liberty Lady versus The Hooded Menace," and "Tina: Teenage Warrior Princess." Enormous fun!

BUG: Michael Shannon and Shannon Cochran star in Tracy Letts' sensational new horror thriller about a battered wife and a man who believes he's being eaten by bugs. Loaded with conspiracy theories and plenty of stage blood, this is probably not for everyone. But those who see it will likely have never seen anything quite like it before in the theatre.

PICK OF THE WEEK



IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

REVISITED: David Mogentale (above) plays Jack Henry Abbott in this new version of Adrian Hall's play about the life of this convict-writer who spent all but nine months of his adult life behind bars. Gripping, compelling, necessary theatre.

NEVADA

TERRITORY: The new play by Frank Cwiklik (*Sugarbaby, Bitch Macbeth*) is a paean to the spaghetti westerns of Sergio Leone. A loner named Red shows up in mining community of Empire, Nevada and takes on the corrupt Padre who runs the town. Lots of artful gunfighting and tongue-in-cheek violence.

THE STENDHAL

SYNDROME: Two one-act plays by Terrence McNally that consider the effects of great art on humankind. Rich and funny stuff, featuring powerhouse performances by Isabella Rossellini and Richard Thomas. Plus you'll get to visit Primary Stages' lovely new facility at 59E59.

MAMBO

QUASIMODO: A startlingly effective one-man play about a hunchback who works as a stand-up comic. The play is shaped as one of his routines, with audience interaction and fantasy segments seamlessly worked in. Brilliantly performed by Lawrence Jensen; the playwright/director is Steven Tanenbaum (*Mono*).

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