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November theater picks in metro Phoenix



Alex Finke (left) and Rachel York in the Roundabout Theatre Company production of "Anything Goes" at ASU Gammage Nov. 13-18, 2012, in Tempe.

Joan Marcus

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By Kerry Lengel

The Republic | azcentral.com

This month theatergoers are invited to the high seas for the national tour of "Anything Goes," to the "Frozen Tundra" of Wisconsin for the football drama "Lombardi" and backstage to spy on a world-class string quartet in "Opus." Here are our best bets for November:

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MUSICAL

Michael Feinstein: Celebrating the American Songbook

The singer and pianist served as Ira Gershwin's musical archivist and befriended Rosemary Clooney en route to winning a Drama Desk Special Award for preserving the legacy of classic Broadway songwriters. He has collaborated with the likes of composers Jule Styne and Jerry Herman and trumpet master Maynard Ferguson.

Details: 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10. Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St. \$79-\$109. 480-499-8587, scottsdaleperformingarts.org.

'Company'

Neil Patrick Harris, Patti LuPone and Stephen Colbert led the all-star cast in this fun, if somewhat slapdash, production of Stephen Sondheim's 1970 musical about the highs and lows of coupledom. It was performed last year at the spring



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gala of the New York Philharmonic and filmed for posterity.

Details: 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 10-11. Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. \$18. 602-257-1222, phxart.org.

'Anything Goes'

Broadway darling (and current "Bunheads" star) Sutton Foster won her second Tony Award in the 2011 revival of this Cole Porter classic. To fill her shoes on the first national tour, producers tapped Rachel York, whose many Broadway credits include "Les Misérables," "Victor/Victoria" and "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels." The 1934 musical romantic comedy, set on an ocean liner, features the songs "You're the Top" and "I Get a Kick Out of You."

Details: Tuesday, Nov. 13, through Sunday, Nov. 18. ASU Gammage, Mill Avenue and Apache Boulevard, Tempe. \$23.50 and up. 480-965-3434, asugammage.com.

'Bat Boy: The Musical'

"In a cave many miles to the south/ Lives a boy born with fangs in his mouth": Thus begins this delightfully lowbrow rock musical inspired by the Weekly World News' long-running hoax stories, produced by Arizona State University's Lyric Opera Theatre. Note: not for the easily offended. Favorite numbers include "Another Dead Cow" and "Children, Children," in which the Greek god Pan orchestrates a lovefest among the forest animals.

Details: Friday, Nov. 16, through Saturday, Dec. 1. Evelyn Smith Music Theatre, Arizona State University, Mill Avenue and Gammage Parkway, Tempe. \$8-\$21. 480-965-6447, music.asu.edu/events.

'Donny and Marie — Christmas in Arizona'

America's favorite wholesome brother-sister act take a break from their hit show on the Vegas Strip. Harking back to the Osmond family's variety shows from the 1970s, this show is a mix of cheesy comedy and full-on production numbers to familiar songs of the season.

Details: Tuesday, Nov. 27, through Sunday, Dec. 2. ASU Gammage, Mill Avenue and Apache Boulevard, Tempe. \$23.50 and up. 480-965-3434, asugammage.com.

COMEDY

'Defending the Caveman'

Men are hunters and women are gatherers, which explains why they should never go shopping together at least that's the gist of this popular one-man show about the battle of the sexes. Created by Rob Becker, it ran for more than two years on Broadway in the mid-'90s, then became a touring franchise. Veteran performers Ben Tedder and Paul Perroni will alternative performances in a run at Phoenix Theatre as part of its subscription season.

Details: Wednesday, Oct. 31, through Sunday, Nov. 25. Phoenix Theatre, 100 E. McDowell Road. \$25-\$70. 602-254-2151, phoenixtheatre.com.

'Shear Madness'

A murder mystery in a hair salon is the formula for this touring production billed as "America's favorite comedy." The original show in Boston has spawned franchises across the country and in 10 foreign languages, racking up nearly 10 million admissions.

Details: Thursday, Nov. 15, through Wednesday, Dec. 5. Mesa Arts Center, 1 E. Main St. \$40. 480-644-6500, mesaartscenter.com.

Shakespeare in the Roses

Teaming up with the Rose Garden at Mesa Community College for a dual fundraising gala, Southwest Shakespeare presents the comedy "Falstaff," an original adaptation drawing on "Henry IV" (parts one and two), "Henry V" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and starring company regulars Jesse James Kamps and Justine Hartley. The event also includes an hors d'oeuvres reception and silent auction.

Details: 6:30-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17; performance at 7:30 p.m. MCC Rose Garden, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa. \$100 in advance only. 602-535-1202, swshakespeare.org.

The Capitol Steps

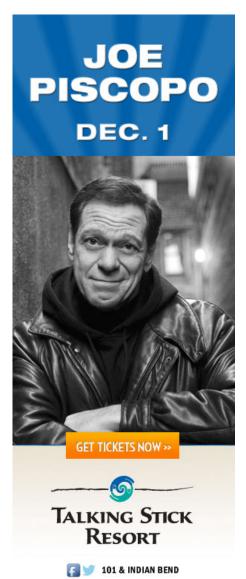
Washington, D.C.'s singing political satirists make their annual trek to Scottsdale to bring some muchneeded comic relief after a bitterly fought election.

Details: 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 24; 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 25. Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St. \$49-\$69, 480-499-8587, scottsdaleperformingarts.org.

DRAMA

'Opus'

"Sex, lies and chamber music" is the tag line for Actors Theatre's production of this 2006 play by Michael



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Hollinger, who drew on his background as a classical musician to create a portrait of a top-level string quartet in a pressure cooker. The violinist has just been replaced with an unproven young woman, and the quartet's next gig is at the White House. "This portrait of the personal and professional interactions among a group of musicians is so entertaining and insightful that you'll never quite listen to a chamber music group the same way again," opined the New York Post.

Details: Friday, Nov. 2, through Sunday, Nov. 18. Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. \$31-\$47. 602-252-8497, atphx.org.

'9 Circles'

iTheatre Collaborative reprises last season's searing drama about a sociopathic soldier on trial for war crimes committed in Iraq. Based on true events and written by a Jesuit priest, Bill Cain, the play is an unflinching look into the heart of a killer, humanizing the character without excusing his actions.

Details: 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 15-17. Second Stage West, ASU New College, University Center Building, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road, Glendale. campus.asu.edu/west/events.

'Lombardi'

A character study of great Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi, this play was a hit on Broadway in 2010-11, drawing a new demographic — sports-loving men — to the theater. Eric Simonson's script, based on the book "When Pride Still Mattered: Lombardi" by the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Maraniss, is co-produced by Arizona Theatre Company and Cleveland Play House.

Details: Thursday, Nov. 15, through Sunday, Dec. 2. Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. \$27-\$108. 602-256-6995, arizonatheatre.org.

'The Things They Carried'

Tim O'Brien's acclaimed collection of stories about the Vietnam War comes to the stage in a one-man show performed by Billy Lyons of the American Place Theatre, a New York-based company whose mission is to "bring books to life."

Details: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16. Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts, 1090 S. Vulture Mine Road, Wickenburg. \$30. 928-684-6624, delewebbcenter.org.

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