

If you didn't see the original,

you might like this even more. The follow-up's main flaw is that too many of the gags

come straight out of the first musical. The Christmas version of the complete "Ed

Sullivan Show" done in three minutes 11 seconds is still funny, but not as hilarious as it was the first time around.

Highlights of new humor include an impassioned soliloquy by Frankie on the heart-wrenching aspects of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman," a bop version of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and a medley of backup vocals.

The fresh-faced foursome are sweetly endearing, their voices are good — Simanski and Meadows in particular — and musical director Kenneth Jones brings them together admirably.

The show is fairly secular and includes a few politically correct nods to Kwanzaa, Ramadan and Hanukkah, but the bulk of the songs are either Christmas carols or mid-20th-

century pop songs recast with holiday lyrics. It's sweet as plum pudding and every bit as schmaltzy as you'd expect.

Holidays are all about passing on sentimental traditions, though. So take your parents and your kids and let the older generation share their memories with the younger.

Showtimes: 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays, 5 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 27; additional matinees 2 p.m. Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10 and 10 a.m. Dec. 18.

Running time: Two hours with intermission

Tickets: \$29 to \$39 (add \$20 for dinner-theater package)

Parking: Free lot

Rating: All ages

Final Weeks!
Must Close Dec. 6!

"Hairspray...is one of the Best Musicals of the Past Decade!"

— Chris Jones, *Chicago Tribune*

"Irresistible!"

"Phenomenal, boldly sung, zestily comic, dance till-you-drop production!"

"Marissa Perry — a beguiling bundle of talent, fun and exuberance!"

— Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

"Musical comedy heaven!"

"One of the funniest, most crowd-pleasing musicals!"

— Scott C. Morgan, *Daily Herald*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Nov. 20 8pm	21 4:30pm 8pm
22 1pm 5pm	23	24	25 1pm	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	27 4:30pm 8pm	28 4:30pm 8pm
29 1pm 5pm	30	Dec. 1	2 1pm 8pm	3 8pm	4 8pm	5 4:30pm 8pm
6 1pm 5pm						

Don't Miss It!
847-634-0200

Only At
Marriott Theatre
In Lincolnshire

www.MarriottTheatre.com

PRE-HOLIDAY SALE!
TWO TICKETS
ONLY \$99



A \$29 SAVINGS! CALL 773.348.4000
OR VISIT TICKETMASTER.COM AND USE
THE CODE GIFT6.

Must purchase by 11/22/09. Offer valid for BMG Chicago shows only. Not valid on previously purchased tickets. Restrictions apply.

ticketmaster 800.982.2787 | 1.800.BLUEMAN
Group Sales 773.348.3300 | **BLUEMAN.COM**

BRIAR STREET THEATRE 3133 North Halsted, Chicago