

A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN

April 1-May 3, 2009

Eugene O'Neill's tale of loneliness, longing and love, of the passion that brings two people together...and the gulf that separates them.

First Folio Theatre

Mayslake Peabody Estate

31 St. near Rte. 83, Oakbrook

630-986-8067, firstfolio.org

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

April 2-19, 2009

Loyola revives Gilbert and Sullivan's maritime musical.

Loyola University Theatre

Kathleen Mullady Memorial Theatre

1125 W. Loyola Ave.

773-508-7510, luc.edu/dfpa

MRS. HYDE AND THE CASE OF THE GASLIGHT BUGGERINGS

April 2-26, 2009

Comical chaos abounds with this gender bending spoof. Dr. Jekyll's nemesis returns with a twist.

Even & Odd Theatricals

Athenaeum Theatre

2936 N. Southport

773-935-6860, evenandoddtheatricals.com

TALK RADIO

April 2-May 31, 2009

Eric Bogosian's Pulitzer-nominated play orbits around the adrenaline-fueled shock jock star of Cleveland's No. 1 talk radio program.

The Gift Theatre

4802 N. Milwaukee Ave.

773-283-7071, thegifttheatre.org

KATRINA: THE GIRL WHO WANTED HER NAME BACK

April 3-May 9, 2009

This exuberant new work, featuring a live, six-piece jazz band follows a young girl from New Orleans forced to face the powerful hurricane that shares her name.

Adventure Stage Chicago

1012 N. Noble St.

773-342-4141, adventurstage.org

HIZZONER: DALEY THE FIRST

April 4-June 28, 2009

Celebrating more than 300 performances, play written by and starring Neil Giuntoli is an intimate, behind the scenes look at the late mayor Richard J. Daley.

Gipeti Entertainment

Theatre Building Chicago

1225 W. Belmont Ave.

773-327-5252, hizzonertheplay.com

BOYZ WILL BE BOYZ

by Myrna Petlicki

Singers Matthew, Mark, Luke, Juan and Abraham, plus four musicians, journey from their small Ohio hometown to New York in search of fame. But the Christian boy band also hopes to spread a positive message and save a soul or two along the way in ALTAR BOYZ.



Frank Paul (L to R), Courtney Crouse, Mike Arthur, Edward Frain and Robert Deason make beautiful music in ALTAR BOYZ. Photo by Trademan Photography.

Noble Fool Theatricals' Artistic Director John Gawlik thinks the hit Broadway musical is a perfect fit for the four-year-old mainstage at Pheasant Run Resort and Noble Fool's audiences. "They nail the concept of boy bands," relates Gawlik, who will direct. "The creators have every type from the leader to the bad boy to the Latin singer and each of them has different personalities." Then there's Abraham, who Gawlik describes as "a fish out of water" because he is Jewish. They need him in the Christian band, though, because he's the songwriter. And the songs are great, Gawlik says, praising the beautiful five-part harmony.

"It's very much a PG show," the director adds. "But there is satire and some innuendo that pops through." After all, in "The Calling," the guys sing, "Jesus called me on my cell phone." The band members "are so serious about believing in it, it's very funny."

Noble Fool Theatricals' production of ALTAR BOYZ runs April 29-July 12, 2009 at Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 E. Main St., St. Charles. For tickets and information, call 630-584-6342 or see www.noblefool.org.