

Suburban theater for the week of Aug. 17-23

Kerry Reid on what's on stage in Chicago's suburbs.

By Kerry Reid, Special to the Tribune

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"Dreamgirls": The appeal of Tom Eyen and Henry Krieger's 1981 musical about a 1960s Motown girl group has lasted far beyond "One Night Only." Of course, hometown favorite Jennifer Hudson shot to fame as Effie in the 2006 film version. Before that, Hudson made her professional debut at the Marriott in a 2001 production of "Big River," directed by Marc Robin. Robin hasn't managed to coax Hudson back on board for his "Dreamgirls" revival, but a cast of longtime locals and regional vets join together to deliver the rousing goods. *Wednesday through Nov. 4 at the Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire; \$41-\$49 at 847-634-0200 or marriotttheatre.com*

"Six Dead Queens and an Inflatable Henry!": Desperate divas of a different era take the stage in this comedic theater piece about the six wives of Henry VIII, originally created by Foursight Theatre in England and reconstituted two years ago by the women of Evanston's Piccolo Theatre. *Thursday through Aug. 26 at Piccolo Theatre, Evanston Arts Depot, 600 Main St., Evanston; \$12.50-\$25 at 847-424-0089 or piccolotheatre.com*

"Rhinoceros": Organic Theater Company mounts Eugene Ionesco's absurdist classic about a town where one man tries to keep his head while his friends begin sprouting horns and rampaging through the streets. *Thursday through Aug. 26 at Meiley-Swallow Hall, North Central College, 31 S. Ellsworth St., Naperville; \$30 at 630-637-7469 or finearts.northcentralcollege.edu*

"Ballet POP: Scenes from a Bar": Pop music, popping corks and pas de deux combine in this conceptual chamber ballet that examines the fleeting relationships created at a bar as the wee hours of the morning close in on patrons. *10 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday at Gorilla Tango Skokie, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie; \$15 at 847-677-7761 or gorillatango.com*

"The Fantasticks": Young romance and worldly sorrow combine in the world's longest-running musical, created by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones. This fabulistic favorite gets a short run with Williams Street Repertory. *Through Aug. 26 at the Raue Center for the Arts, 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake; \$30 at 815-356-9212 or rauecenter.org*

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