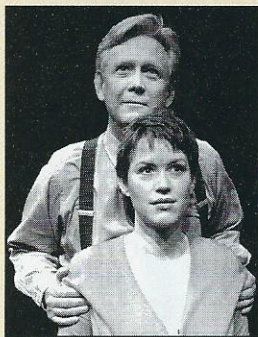


Who's Starring Now



HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE

Bruce Davison and **Molly Ringwald** costar in the much lauded Vineyard Theatre's Off-Broadway production of *How I Learned to Drive* currently playing at the Century Theatre off Union Square at 19 E. 15th Street. Mr. Davison's performance is charming and charismatic and Ms. Ringwald is a capable actress who handles the material deservedly.

Mark Brokaw's strong direction gives these out of time, out of mind moments a flare beyond their composition. Mary Lousie Parker brought her own special quirky erotic persona to the role giving it more life than the content provides and David Morse added a sultry erotic masculinity that Davison makes up with charm but the undertow of thwarted "Desire Under The Elms" is not in the material. Still a worthy ticket for its talent and direction, but not the glowing literary treasure it has been PR'd to be. However the true worth of the ticket lies in the delightful performance given by Deirdre Lovejoy as Ringwald's mother. Three little monologues that are a big bang for your buck.

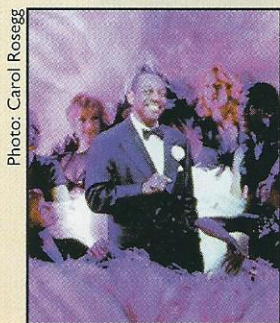


Photo: Carol Rosegg

CHICAGO - Hinton Battle

From the Scarecrow in the *WIZ* to the Vietnam Vet in *Miss Saigon*, Mr. Battle has created role after role of flawless performances. This sexy, sassy reincarnation of *CHICAGO* is still one of the hottest tickets in town. Mr. Battle can only make it even more sexy and sassy and a harder ticket to get, as he takes over the role of the

headline making lawyer who saves Roxy and Velma from the chair. If you want someone who can really "Razzle Dazzle 'em", no one does it better.



Photo: Joan Marcus

THE KING AND I - Marie Osmond

Marie Osmond brings her beauty and charm to the enchanted production of *The King and I* opposite Kevin Gray's endearing and delightful King. She has the tendency to try to sing too much, in a role written for those who couldn't, and like the character she por-

trays, a bit stiff at the top of the show, she soon rises to the occasion and makes it all come alive. The show is still as elegant as ever with the most adorable cast of little princes and princesses Broadway has seen in many a season.

20 SHOUT

Still Hot and Running



Photo: Richard Feldman

BLUE MAN GROUP has been playing at the Astor Place Theatre since 1991 and is always hard to get a ticket to, even for press! So plan ahead and see why being blue can be so much fun! It's a wild other-worldly event that will shake all the blues away. (254-4370, 434 Lafayette St.)

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY STRIKES

BACK - If you think you've seen everything on Broadway - think again. It ain't over till the fat lady sings and that's where this show begins. Gerard Alessandrini is ruthlessly cunning with his lyrics and staging. Anything this good is usually forbidden, but don't let that stop you. The show has moved to the Stardust Cafe in the heart of Broadway. (239-6200, Broadway and 51St.)

Photo: Carol Rosegg



AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN at the Lucille Lortel Theatre is the hit Off-Broadway show that has started a Hollywood bidding roll between the likes of Madonna and Julia Roberts, to name a few, over who will bring the play to the big screen. Brilliantly written by Douglas Carter Beane and one of the hottest

directors in town, Mark Brokaw. If you want to know why life is like Calvin Klein perfume - go see this show. (239-6200, 121 Christopher St.)

GROSS INDECENCY is one of the finest pieces of dramatic theatre to hit New York City in a decade. Playing at the Minetta Lane Theatre since June of 1997, it is still one of the hottest tickets and best evenings of theatre in town. Written and directed with power and impeccable taste by Moises Kaufman.

(307-4100, 18 Minetta Lane)



Photo: Joan Marcus

RENT is the Pulitzer prize winning musical by Jonathan Larson, directed by Michael Grief, and breaks all the rules while still breaking records. It is a *not to be missed* New York experience. (Nederlander Theatre, 921-8000, 208 W. 41 St.)

THE FANTASTICKS, the Schmidt and Jones musical at the Sullivan St. Playhouse, has been consistently running for 38 years. Gina Schuh-Turner stars as Louisa in this epic little jewel of a show which has delighted New Yorkers and is still a *Must See*, and See, and See and See. John Savarese currently stars as El Gallo, Eric Meyersfield as Matt. (647-3838, 181 Sullivan St.)



Photo: Joan Marcus