

**Queen sacrifice** Alianne Portuondo, left, is willing to give her life for Jeff Horger in *Alcestis Ascending*.



young woman from the Bronx who dreams of becoming a writer. Andy Sandberg directs.

- ★ **Sleep No More** *McKittrick Hotel, 530 W 27th St between Tenth and Eleventh Aves (866-811-4111, sleepnomoreny.com). Subway: C, E to 23rd St; 1 to 28th St. Mon–Thu 7pm; Fri, Sat 7, 11pm. \$75–\$95, premium \$125–\$162.50. 2hrs. No intermission.* A multitude of searing sights await at this bedazzling and uncanny installation by the English company Punchdrunk. Your sense of space is blurred as you wend through more than 90 discrete spaces, from a cloistered chapel to a ballroom floor.—**DC**
- ★ **Stomp** *Orpheum Theater, 126 Second Ave between St. Marks Pl and E 7th St (800-982-2787, stomponline.com). Subway: N, R to 8th St–NYU; 6 to Astor Pl. Tue–Fri 8pm; Sat 3, 8pm; Sun 2, 5:30pm. \$79. 1hr 35mins. No intermission.* This shrewd garbage heap of clog dancing, prop comedy and chest-thumping percussion spins out impressive (if numbing) variations on vaudeville by way of English punk.—**DC**
- ★ **Storyville** *York Theatre Company at St. Peter's Church, Citigroup Center, 619 Lexington Ave at 54th St (212-935-5820, yorktheatre.org). Subway: E, M to Lexington Ave–53rd St; 6 to 51st St. Schedule varies; check website. \$67.50. Through Aug 17.* Broadway veteran Ernestine Anderson stars in Ed Bullins and Mildred Kayden's musical, about the birth of jazz in the seedy saloons and brothels of New Orleans in the 1910s. Bill Castellino directs the New York premiere.
- ★ **Then She Fell** *Kingsland Ward, 195 Mauger St between Graham Ave and Humboldt St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-374-5196, thenshefell.com). Subway: L to Grand St. Tue–Sun 7:30, 10:30pm. \$95–\$125. 2hrs. No intermission.* Third Rail Projects' interactive psych-ward riff on Lewis Carroll's Alice books, performed on three floors of a church building in Williamsburg, uses a style similar to that of *Sleep No More*. But here, when you peer into the looking glass, it stares right back at you; the experiences that director-designer Zach Morris and his company offer are stunningly personal.—**JS**
- ★ **The Two-Character Play** *New World Stages, 340 W 50th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-239-6200, thetwocharacterplay.com). Subway: C, E, 1 to 50th St. Mon 8pm; Wed 2, 8pm; Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 2:30, 8pm; Sun 3pm. \$72.50–\$126.50. 1hr 45mins. One intermission.* Through Sept 1. Tennessee Williams's two-hander is a confusing meta-theatrical curiosity in which the playwright filters themes from his family history through fogged lenses of European experimentalism. In Gene David Kirk's seemingly under-rehearsed revival, Brad Douir and the compellingly feral Amanda Plummer seem lost in the piece's layers of obscurity.—**AF**

**TONY OFFER!** **The Unavoidable**

**Disappearance of Tom Durnin** *Laura Pels Theatre, 111 W 46th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-719-1300, roundabouttheatre.org). Subway: B, D, F, M to 47–50th Sts–Rockefeller Ctr; N, Q, R, 42nd St S, 1, 2, 3, 7 to 42nd St–Times Sq. Tue 7:30pm; Wed 2, 7:30pm; Thu, Fri 7:30pm; Sat 2, 7:30pm; Sun 2pm. \$71–\$81. 1hr 40mins. No intermission.* Through Aug 25. Steven Levenson's new play concerns a father released after five years in jail and the family with which he tries to reconnect. As the disgraced patriarch, the terrific David Morse builds a compelling portrait of pride, guilt, self-delusion and desperation. But while the dialogue is lean and dynamic, the play is all premise and no motion.—**DC**

**TONY OFFER!** **Unbroken Circle**

**St. Luke's Theatre, 308 W 46th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-239-6200, unbrokencircletheplay.com). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St–Port Authority. Wed 2:30, 8pm; Thu 7pm; Sun 1:30pm. \$36.50–\$59.50. Through Sept 3. Ugly secrets are disinterred at the burial of a Texas family patriarch in James Wesley's drama, set in 1970 Galveston. Jason St. Little directs a cast that features Anika Larsen and erstwhile *Brady Bunch* middle sister Eve Plumb.**

★ **Unlock'd** *Duke on 42nd Street, 229 W 42nd St between Seventh and Eighth Aves (646-223-3010, prospecttheater.org). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St–Port Authority; N, Q, R, 42nd St S, 1, 2, 3, 7 to 42nd St–Times Sq. Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 3, 8pm. \$50, premium \$65. 2hrs 15mins. One intermission.* Through Sat 20. Derek Gregor and Sam Carner adapt Alexander Pope's 1712 satirical poem, *The Rape of the Lock* (about the theft of a ringlet of hair), into a musical that mixes period verse with rousing, range-challenging pop-rock songs. It sounds just crazy enough to work, but the tone of this Prospect Theater Company production is off; pretty much everything besides the wigs falls flat.—**RS**

★ **The Weir** *Irish Repertory Theatre, 132 W 22nd St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-727-2737, irishrep.org). Subway: F, M, 1 to 23rd St. Tue 7pm; Wed 3, 8pm; Thu 7pm; Fri 8pm; Sat 3, 8pm; Sun 3pm. \$55–\$65. 1hr 40mins. No intermission.* Through Sept 8. The Irish Rep's revival of Conor McPherson's 1997 masterwork, directed by Ciarán O'Reilly, boasts a palpable liquidity, an accelerating rush of people swept off their feet by loneliness who are nonetheless caught and stilled in a village bar. An excellent cast and McPherson's profoundly felt humanism make the piece warming on a deep, maybe even soul-deep, level.—**HS**

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## The Off-Off List

**This is how we do it**

If you want to be listed: Submit information by mail or e-mail (theater@timeoutny.com) to **Adam Feldman**. Include details, dates, times, address of venue with cross streets, nearest subways, contact information, box-office phone number and admission price, if any. **Deadline is 6pm Monday, ten days before publication date.** Incomplete submissions will not be included, and information will not be accepted over the phone. Submitting a listing does not guarantee inclusion.

- ▶ Reviewed in this issue
- ★ Recommended
- ◊ Cheap
- ♫ Musical or song-based play

## Best bets

- ★ **Ice Factory Festival 2013** *New Ohio Theatre, 154 Christopher St between Greenwich and Washington Sts (212-868-4444, newohiotheatre.org). Subway: 1 to Christopher St–Sheridan Sq. Wed–Sat 7pm. \$18. Through Aug 3.* In the helter-skelter of summer festivals, the cool curatorial heads of the Ice Factory always provide a welcome breeze. This year's edition skews toward works devised collectively.
- ★ **Patti Issues** *The Duplex, 61 Christopher St at Seventh Ave South (212-255-5438, theduplex.com). Subway: 1 to Christopher St–Sheridan Sq. Thu 9:30pm. \$20, at the door \$25, plus two-drink minimum. 1hr. No intermission.* Through Aug 15. Ben Rimalover explains how his fraught relationship with his gay father dovetailed with his obsession with Broadway uberstar Patti LuPone. His dishy, high-energy monologue delivers laughs, emotion and insight into gay diva worship in equal measure.—**Raven Snook**

## Good odds

- ★ **Beckett in Benghazi** *UNDER St. Marks, 94 St. Marks Pl between First Ave and Ave A (212-868-4444, horsetrade.info). Subway: F to Lower East Side–Second Ave, L to First Ave, 6 to Astor Pl. Thu–Sat 7pm. \$18. Through Thu 25–Aug 10.* A theater company mounting a revival of *Endgame* wrestles with the piece's relationship to current U.S. foreign policy in a new satire by Ben Diserens, directed by James Presson for Less Than Rent.
- ★ **Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival** *Various venues (bipaf.net). \$10. Schedule varies; check website.* Through Sun 28. Performance artists stray from the beaten dramatic path in the inaugural edition of this collaborative festival, spread out among multiple adventurous Brooklyn venues (including Jack, Glasshouse and the Invisible Dog).
- ★ **Buried Child** *Aaron Davis Hall (at City College), Convent Ave between 133rd and 135th Sts (212-650-6900, adhatecny.org). Subway: 1 to 137th St–City College. Thu, Fri 7pm; Sat 2, 7pm. \$25. Through Aug 3.* Khalil Kain directs a multiracial cast in a revival of Sam Shepard's breakthrough 1978 drama, which unearths the sordid secrets of an Illinois farm family.
- ★ **The Capables** *Gym at Hudson, 243 Thompson St at Washington Sq South (212-868-4444, smarttix.com). Subway: A, C, E, B, D, F, M to W 4th St. Tue, Wed 7pm; Thu–Sat 8pm; Sun 7pm. \$18. Through Aug*

3. The considerable Dale Soules, last seen as a proud hillbilly in Broadway's *Hands on a Hardbody*, plays a broader on a reality TV show in Jay Stull's family dramedy, directed by Stefanie Abel Horowitz.

★ **cautionary tall** *Flea Theater, 41 White St between Broadway and Church St (212-352-3101, theflea.org). Subway: A, C, E, J, Z, N, Q, R, 6 to Canal St; 1 to Franklin St. Mon, Tue, Sun 7pm. \$15–\$30. Through Tue 23.* Benjamin H. Kamine directs the Bats in a new play about first-generation Chinese-Americans, by the majuscule-averse Christopher Oscar Peña.

★ **Coriolanus** *UNDER St. Marks, 94 St. Marks Pl between First Ave and Ave A (212-868-4444, horsetrade.info). Subway: F to Lower East Side–Second Ave, L to First Ave, 6 to Astor Pl. Thu–Sat 8pm. \$18. Through Sat 20.* Director-adaptor Paul Bedard and Theater in Asylum make a hashtag of Shakespeare's Roman tragedy, in which the hoi polloi turn against a war hero (and mama's boy) when he refuses to show off his scars.

★ **FREE Cymbeline** *Municipal Parking Lot, Ludlow St at Broome St (shakespeareintheparkinglot.com). Subway: J, Z, M to Delancey–Essex Sts. Thu–Sat 8pm. Through Sat 27.* The Drilling Company begins the new season of its Shakespeare in the Parking Lot series with a convoluted romance (and possible self-parody) that takes the Bard's favorite plot twist—fike death—to a new degree of absurdity. Hamilton Clancy directs.

★ **East to Edinburgh 2013** *59E59 Theaters, 59 E 59th St between Madison and Park Aves (212-279-4200, 59e59.org). Subway: N, Q, R to Lexington Ave–59th St; 4, 5, 6 to 59th St. Schedule varies; check website. \$15–\$20. Through Sun 28.* This annual festival celebrates those vigorous American salmon swimming against the powerful current of British work—and into the shoals of the Edinburgh Fringe.

★ **Ethel Sings: Espionage in High C** *Walkerspace, 46 Walker St between Broadway and Church St (866-811-4111, ovationtix.com). Subway: A, C, E to Canal St; 1 to Franklin St. Thu–Sat 8pm; Sun 3pm. \$18. Through Sun 21.* Sixty years after Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed at Sing Sing for passing American military secrets to the Soviets, Joan Heber—a distant cousin of the couple—puts Ethel's life onstage in a new play, directed by Jules Aaron.

★ **Exodus Code: Advice for Wanderers** *Flea Theater, 41 White St between Broadway and Church St (212-352-3101, theatermania.com). Subway: A, C, E, J, Z, N, Q, R, 6 to Canal St; 1 to Franklin St. Wed 5pm; Thu, Fri 9pm; Sat 5, 9pm; Sun 3pm. \$18. Through Sun 28.* Four visitors to an abandoned building on the Lower East Side travel back to the heyday of Yiddish vaudeville in America-in-Play's theatrical time capsule.

★ **The Fallen T. Schreiber Studio, 151 W 26th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-352-3101, tschreiber.org). Subway: N, R, 1 to 28th St. Wed, Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 2, 8pm; Sun 3pm. \$20. Through Sun 28. Yasmine Beverly Rana's drama, directed**

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much so right. Disney's barnstorming, four-alarm delight focuses on the newsboy strike of 1899, in which spunky (and high-kicking) newspaper hawkers stood up to media magnates. The Alan Menken tunes are pleasing, the book is sharp, and the dances are simply spectacular.—DC

**J Once** *Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre* (212-239-6200, [oncebroadway.com](http://oncebroadway.com)). 2hrs 20mins. *One intermission.* This is the sort of earnest and understated new musical you want to love, but just can't. There are touching, well-sung performances from Arthur Darvill and Joanna Christie as an Irish songwriter and the Czech immigrant who inspires and enchants him, respectively. But this adaptation of the 2006 indie flick can't sustain a two-act structure on mere melancholy and quirk.—DC

**J The Phantom of the Opera** *Majestic Theatre* (212-239-6200, [thephantomoftheopera.com](http://thephantomoftheopera.com)). 2hrs 30mins. *One intermission.* Andrew Lloyd Webber's iconic, bombastic musical goes on. Directed by Harold Prince, *Phantom* is lavish and engaging enough to draw tourists more than two decades into its run. Although the score often strikes a cheesy 1980s synth-pop note, the spectacle and romance remain more or less intact.—DC

**\* J Pippin** *Music Box Theatre* (212-239-6200, [pippintheatrical.com](http://pippintheatrical.com)). 2hrs 35mins. *One intermission.* Diane Paulus's sensational cirque-noir revival of Stephen Schwartz and Roger O. Hirson's 1972 parable is Broadway showmanship at its best. Matthew James Thomas, Patina Miller, Andrea Martin and the superb Rachel Bay Jones, as well as acrobats and Fosse-style dancers, deliver a thrilling evening of art and craftiness, spiked with canny skepticism. Number after number stops the show, but it goes insistently, dazzlingly on.—AF

**TONY OFFER!** **\* J Rock of Ages** *Helen Hayes Theatre* (212-239-6200, [rockofagesmusical.com](http://rockofagesmusical.com)). 2hrs 30mins. *One intermission.* Even if you never grew a mullet or banged your

## Act now!

### Previews

**First Date**  
Longacre Theatre  
**Soul Doctor**  
Circle in the Square Theatre  
**Harbor**  
Primary Stages, starts Tue 23  
**Love's Labour's Lost**  
Delacorte Theater, starts Tue 23

### Opening

**Artist of Light**  
New World Stages, Thu 18  
**The Civil War**  
Lucille Lortel Theatre, Thu 18  
**Nobody Loves You**  
Second Stage Theatre, Thu 18  
**Handbook for an American Revolutionary**  
Gym at Judson, Mon 22  
**Storyville**  
York Theatre Company, Tue 23  
**Cirque du Soleil: Quidam**  
Barclays Center, Wed 24

**Encores! Off-Center: I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road**  
New York City Center, Wed 24  
**Let It Be**  
St. James Theatre, Wed 24  
**Lincoln Center Festival: Murmurs**  
Gerald W. Lynch Theater, Wed 24  
**Me and Jezebel**  
Snapple Theater Center, Wed 24  
**Murder for Two**  
McGinn/Cazale Theatre, Thu 25  
**I Forgive You, Ronald Reagan**  
Beckett Theatre, Tue 30  
**Shida**  
Ars Nova, Wed 31

### Closing

**\*Rantoul and Die**  
Cherry Lane Theatre, Sat 20  
**Unlocked**  
Duke on 42nd Street, Sat 20  
**Alcestis Ascending**  
Clurman Theatre, Sun 21

**Murder Ballad**  
Union Square Theatre, Sun 21  
**\*A Picture of Autumn**  
Mint Theater Company, Sat 27  
**\*The Assembled Parties**  
Samuel J. Friedman Theatre, Sun 28  
**\*Gibraltar**  
Irish Repertory Theatre, Sun 28  
**\*Here Lies Love**  
Public Theater, Sun 28  
**I Hope They Serve Beer on Broadway**  
777 Theater, Sun 28  
**\*Lincoln Center Festival: Monkey—Journey to the West**  
David H. Koch Theater, Sun 28  
**The New York Musical Theatre Festival 2013**  
Pershing Square Signature Center, Sun 28  
**Pinchbottom's Pretension**  
Elektra Theatre, Sun 28

head to Quiet Riot, this insanely fun mixtape musical will hit your retro sweet spot. A parade of pop and metal ballads fits beautifully with Chris D'Arienzo's self-mocking book. It's *Urinetown* for the *I Love the '80s* crowd.—DC

**TONY OFFER!** **\* J Soul Doctor** *Circle in the Square Theatre*, 1633 Broadway, entrance on 50th St (212-239-6200, [souldoctorbroadway.com](http://souldoctorbroadway.com)). Wed 2, 8pm. \$135. Writer-director Daniel S. Wise pulls a rabbi out of his hat in a biomusical about the 1960s world-music star Shlomo Carlebach, which examines the Hasidic composer's unusual career, as well as his friendship with soul queen Nina Simone. Eric Anderson plays the lead role, and David Schechter provides lyrics for 30 of Carlebach's compositions.

**TONY OFFER!** **\* J Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark** *Foxwoods Theatre* (877-250-2929, [spidermanonbroadway.com](http://spidermanonbroadway.com)). 2hrs 40mins. *One intermission.* The woe-plagued, \$75 million musical based on the Marvel superhero ends its long, strange journey (grisly injuries, Julie Taymor fired, 183 previews) as a moderately enjoyable show that is still a hotchpotch of rock, circus and romantic comedy. You care about Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson more, but the show is still dragged down by plot holes and a lumbering, bland score by Bono and the Edge.—DC

**\* The Trip to Bountiful** *Stephen Sondheim Theatre* (212-239-6200, [thetripbountifulbroadway.com](http://thetripbountifulbroadway.com)). 2hrs 20mins. *One intermission.* Through Oct 9. Cicely Tyson stars in a beautifully wrought revival of Horton Foote's American classic. As homesick and feisty Carrie Watts, Tyson does the amazing trick of aging backward, from wizened to radiant. Cuba Gooding Jr., Vanessa Williams and Condola Rashad all offer strong supporting work in Michael Wilson's handsome, glowing production.—DC

**\* Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike** *John Golden Theatre* (212-239-6200, [vanyasoniamashaspikes.com](http://vanyasoniamashaspikes.com)). 2hrs 30mins. *One intermission.* Through Aug 25. Christopher Durang's goofy and good-humored riff on Chekhovian motifs twinkles brightly in a Broadway house. David Hyde Pierce and Kristine Nielsen are superbly melancholy as depressed siblings with ridiculous Russian names. Nicholas Martin's handsome, energetic production lands the laughs.—DC

**\* J Wicked** *Gershwin Theatre* (800-982-2787, [wickedthemusical.com](http://wickedthemusical.com)). 2hrs 45mins. *One intermission.* This musical prequel to *The Wizard of Oz* addresses

surprisingly complex themes, such as standards of beauty, morality and, believe it or not, fighting fascism. Thanks to Winnie Holzman's witty book and Stephen Schwartz's pop-inflected score, *Wicked* soars. Currently, the cast features Willemijn Verkaik as Elphaba and Katie Rose Clarke as Galinda.—DC

## Off Broadway

### How to use this section

To book tickets, visit [timeout.com/newyork/theater-tickets](http://timeout.com/newyork/theater-tickets). Call each theater for information about wheelchair access and devices for the hearing impaired.

**Listings are chosen at the discretion of the editors. TONY does not accept compensation of any kind in exchange for listing events or venues.**

▶ Reviewed in this issue

\* Recommended

J Musical or song-based play

TONY OFFER! Discounted tickets available at [timeout.com/newyork/theater-tickets](http://timeout.com/newyork/theater-tickets)

**J Alcestis Ascending** *Clurman Theatre* (at Theatre Row), 410 W 42nd St between Ninth and Tenth Aves (212-239-6200, [telecharge.com](http://telecharge.com)). Subways: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority. Thu-Sat 8pm; Sun 3pm. \$42.50. Through Sun 21. Writer-director Seth Panitch presents his adaptation of Euripides' classic tragedy about a wife willing to sacrifice herself in her husband's stead. The cast blends actors from the Cuban National Office of Scenic Arts and the University of Alabama; performances are in both Spanish and English, and include live rock music.

**TONY OFFER!** **Around the World in 80 Days** *New Theater at 45th Street*, 354 W 45th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (866-811-4111, [aroundtheworldinny.com](http://aroundtheworldinny.com)). Subways: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority. Tue, Wed 7pm; Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 2:30, 8pm; Sun 2:30, 7pm. \$32-\$64. 2hrs. *One intermission.* All the world may be a stage, but how do you make a stage all the world? Mark Brown's 2001 adaptation of Jules Verne's 1873 adventure, built for a cast of five, cleverly reduces the scale of the story. Director Rachel Klein's diverting revival is richly designed, sometimes to a fault, and the supporting actors have multiple chances to show off their timing.—AF

**J Artist of Light** *New World Stages*, 340 W 50th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-239-6200, [illuminate.com](http://illuminate.com)). Subways: C, E, 1 to 50th St. Mon, Wed 7pm; Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 2:30, 8pm; Sun noon, 3pm. \$59.95-\$69.95. The light suit-wearing dance group iLuminate, which appeared on *America's Got Talent*, presents this tale about Jacob, a young artist who finds solace in a magical paintbrush that lets him turn his characters into actual creatures. Miral Kotb directs.

**\* J Avenue Q** *New World Stages*, 340 W 50th St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-239-6200, [avenueq.com](http://avenueq.com)). Subways: C, E, 1 to 50th St. Mon, Wed-Fri 8pm; Sat 2:30, 8pm; Sun 3, 7:30pm. \$69.50-\$89.50, premium \$126.50. 2hrs 15mins. *One intermission.* After many years, the sassy and clever puppet musical remains a sly and winning piece of metaphorical tomfoolery. Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx's deft *Sesame Street*-esque novelty tunes about porn and racism still earn their laughs.—David Cote

**TONY OFFER!** **The Banana Monologues** *Acorn Theatre* (at Theatre Row), 410 W 42nd St between Ninth and Tenth Aves (212-239-6200, [telecharge.com](http://telecharge.com)). Subways: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority. Mon, Thu-Sat 8pm; Sun 3pm. \$69.95. 1hr 30mins. *No intermission.* Through Aug 30. In this one-man show about a guy, his girlfriend and his penis, John R. Brennan portrays a gruff personification of his junk named Sergeant Johnson, armed and always ready for action. Brennan works hard on a too-large stage, and there are one or two smutty chuckles. But undeniably, this strip-mall-level attraction is low-hanging fruit.—DC

**Bill W. and Dr. Bob** *SoHo Playhouse*, 15 Vandam St between Sixth Ave and Varick St (866-811-4111, [billwandarbob.com](http://billwandarbob.com)). Subways: C, E to Spring St. Tue 7pm; Wed 2:30, 7pm; Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 3, 8pm; Sun 3pm. \$85-\$99. Samuel Shem and Janet Surrey's bioplay looks at Alcoholics Anonymous cofounders Bill Wilson and Bob Smith, whose partnership saved them from lives on the rocks. Six years after the play's New York debut, Seth Gordon directs a revival.

**\* J Blue Man Group** *Astor Place Theatre*, 434 Lafayette St between Astor Pl and E 4th St (800-258-3626, [blueman.com](http://blueman.com)). Subways: N, R to 8th St-NYU; 6 to Astor Pl. Mon, Tue 8pm; Wed 2, 8pm; Thu 8pm; Fri 5, 8pm; Sat, Sun 2, 5, 8pm. \$75-\$99. 1hr 45mins. *No intermission.* Through Jan 5. Three deadpan, blue-skinned men with extraterrestrial imaginations carry this tourist fare, a show as smart as it is ridiculous. For sheer weird, exuberant fun, it's hard to top this long-running treat.—AF



**BLUE MAN GROUP**

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