



Pippin

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Revival

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Photograph: Joan Marcus

Pippin

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Time Out says

Thu Apr 25 2013

Theater review by Adam Feldman. Music Box Theatre (Broadway). Book by Roger O. Hirson. Music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. Dir. Diane Paulus. With Matthew James Thomas, Patina Miller, Rachel Bay Jones. 2hrs 30mins. One intermission.

Ladies and gentlemen, step right up to the greatest show of the Broadway season: Diane Paulus's sensational cirque-noir revival of *Pippin*. Here, in all its grand and dubious glory, is musical-theater showmanship at its best, a thrilling evening of art and craftiness spiked with ambivalence about the nature of enthrallment. Chet Walker's dances, which retain the pelvic thrust of Bob Fosse's original choreography, are a viciously precise mockery of showbiz bump and grind, enacted by a sexy, sinister, improbably limber ensemble (in skintight carnival gear and medieval costumery). Circus elements created by Gypsy Snider—acrobatics, aerialism, contortionism, juggling, hula hoops—build momentum toward what the ringmaster assures us is "a climax you will remember for the rest of your lives." That just might be true.

Beneath the production's over-the-big-top trappings is Roger O. Hirson and Stephen Schwartz's 1972 musical, a slight but resonant parable stuffed with delightful songs. A pretty youth named Pippin (the creamy-skinned

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Matthew James Thomas, appealingly ingenuous) embarks on a journey to find meaning in his life, guided by the predatory Leading Player (a ferocious Patina Miller, with two rows of teeth a gleam and hips that snap like switchblades). First he seeks fulfillment in battle, like his kingly father (a droll Terrence Mann); then he samples pleasures of the flesh, urged on by his grandmother Berthe (comic marvel Andrea Martin, in a knockout scene that earns a midshow standing ovation). But Pippin's picaresque stalls in Act II, when he meets a widow, Catherine (the superb Rachel Bay Jones, in a lovable and expertly layered turn). Somehow sunny and cloudy at once, Jones grounds *Pippin* in a reality beyond the Leading Player's groovy hard sell, and the show's messages—about the perils of personal exceptionalism and the lures of empty celebrity—come through with force in the end. Yet for all its skepticism about entertainment, *Pippin* offers it par excellence. Number after number stops the show, but the show goes insistently, dazzlingly on.—*Adam Feldman*

RECOMMENDED: [Video montage of Pippin on Broadway](#)

Follow Adam Feldman on Twitter: [@FeldmanAdam](#)

[2013 Tony Award nominee](#). See our [guide to the 2013 Tony Awards](#).



Venue details

[MAP](#)

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Name: | Music Box Theatre |
| Address: | 239 W 45th St Midtown West New York |
| Cross Street: | between Broadway and Eighth Ave |
| Phone: | 212-239-6200 |
| Website: | shubertorganization.com/theatres/music_box.asp |
| Transport: | Subway: N, Q, R, 42nd St S, 1, 2, 3, 7 to 42nd St–Times Sq |
| Event phone: | 212-239-6200 |
| Event website: | pippinthemusical.com |
| Categories: | Theater. Musicals. Revival |
| Event type: | Plays & Shows |

Pippin

2013

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| Date | Time | Price information | |
|------------|--------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sun May 26 | 3:00pm | \$59–142 | Buy tickets |
| Tue May 28 | 8:00pm | \$59–142 | Buy tickets |

| | | | |
|------------|--------|----------|-----------------------------|
| Wed May 29 | 2:30pm | \$59-142 | Buy tickets |
| | 8:00pm | | |
| Thu May 30 | 8:00pm | \$59-142 | Buy tickets |
| Fri May 31 | 8:00pm | \$59-142 | Buy tickets |

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Hello,I work for a after-school program and I have a mentoring group, My group had the privilege to see the play, my kids really didn't understand completely the story but just the fact that they went to broadway and was almost in front row seats , the look in their faces in how amaze they we're to see live acting. Well tears came to my eyes because they enjoyed so much and I am so great full and honor to have seen them. The play was and is amazing thank you to all

Sonia Lopez About 10 days ago [Report](#)

A truly wonderful mix of theater and Cirque du Soleil acrobatics make for a fresh enjoyable evening of Broadway. The singing and dancing are all A+ but I found the acting from Patina Miller as the:Leading Player and Terrance Mann as King Charlemagne stilted and unbelievable. On the other hand, precious moments of Mathew James Thomas' Pippin were quite moving. Act one came on like a lion and seemed to be satisfying by the end. But wait, there's more. The 2nd act was a little slow and overall seemed to be an awful lot of story for the simple message they conveyed. Even if you overpay for your ticket it's worth it to see Andrea Martin bring down the house and a company of great theater crafties of potential TONY winners!

Steven Fogelman Sun Apr 28 [Report](#)

Love this show. Love the cast. seen it 8 times already was at opening night and agree with review. Get ready for a Tony win. See this show.

gchris11 Fri Apr 26 [Report](#)

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