

STATE & LOCAL

TRIANGLE AREA THEATRE

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What do Annie, Phantom of the Opera, Mama Mia, and Hairspray have in common? Not only are they all plays that have appeared on Broadway, but they are also plays that are now scheduled to be performed in the Raleigh/Durham area in 2009-2010. Not many people realize that such great entertainment opportunities are so close by. The Triangle area is more widely known for its selection of colleges and universities, not its diverse theater options. This is unfortunate, because for the remainder of 2009 and

throughout 2010, some amazing theatre performances are coming to the area.

Performances playing at the North Carolina Theatre in 2010 include The Full Monty, Annie, Cinderella, and the Little Shop of Horrors. All of these plays have been featured on Broadway and are now coming to the Triangle. The Full Monty is playing from February 27-March 7, 2010. According to the description of the musical on The North Carolina Theatre's website, The Full Monty is based around a story of "six unemployed Buffalo

steelworkers [who] come up with a bold way to make some quick cash. In the process they discover renewed self-esteem, the importance of friendship and the ability to have fun." It was nominated for nine Tony awards, but this musical may not be suitable for, nor enjoyed by young audiences. However, two shows that would be enjoyed by youngsters are Cinderella and Annie. These classic stories are known and loved by most children everywhere. Roger and Hammerstein's Cinderella, will be performed April 10-18, 2010,

and Annie will follow on July 24-August 1. The rock musical, Little Shop of Horrors is scheduled to be performed on September 18-26. For more information on these performances, visit the North Carolina Theater's website (www.nctheatre.com) or call 919-831-6941 x6944.

The Durham Performing Arts Center (DPAC) also has a wonderful play lineup for the 2009 holiday season throughout 2010. The Phantom of the Opera will be performed starting November 26 and running through December 20. Andrew Lloyd Weber's award winning musical is an adaptation of Gaston Leroux's classic novel of mystery and suspense. Phantom has been performed in more than 100 cities worldwide, and is now the longest running show in Broadway-history. In the words of the DPAC, "this award-winning musical has woven its magical spell over standing room audiences... [and will] take your breath away."

Mama Mia is the musical that will start off the New Year with a little fun. The DPAC describes this smash-hit as "the ultimate feel-good show!" Going to see Mama Mia would make for the perfect girls' night out. On February 24, for one day only, Hairspray is coming to the DPAC. Since it is a onetime only show-

ing, be sure to get your tickets in advanced! The next musical after Hairspray is Spring Awakening. Playing from March 4-March 7, this performance is described as "the groundbreaking fusion of morality, sexuality and rock & roll that has awakened Broadway like no other musical in years." Like The Full Monty, this musical may not be appropriate for young audiences.

On April 21 through May 16, the critically acclaimed musical, Wicked is also coming to the DPAC. This musical is a spinoff of the classic movie, The Wizard of Oz, as it is the untold story of the witches of Oz. Wicked has cast its spell upon audiences across the world, and is a show surely to entertain. Coming for one week only, May 25-30, The Color Purple is back by popular demand. This award winning performance, based on the novel by Alice Walker, features a wide arrangement of musical genres and, as the DPAC puts it, has stolen the hearts of "young and old, and unit[ed] audiences in a community of joy."

The final musical listed in the SunTrust Broadway Series, is the classic Disney love story, Beauty and the Beast. This "tale as old as time" will be enjoyed by audiences of all ages and should not be missed!

This coming year is scheduled to be filled with many wonderful performances! For more information about these, and other, performances visit the Durham Performing Arts Center's website (www.dpacnc.com) or call 919-688-3722.

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