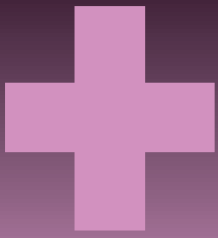


Broadway shows to see this season

Here are our top picks from among fall's outstanding set of shows. **T. MICHELLE MURPHY**



PLUS

Welcome

Fall Arts Guide

Fall 2014 is packed with culture and entertainment. Catch some of your favorite movie stars making their debuts on the Great White Way or take in new exhibits at one of the city's many museums when the weather starts to turn. If you're into feathers and glam, you'll want to attend the annual New York Burlesque Festival next weekend. On Saturday, Broadway's "Aladdin" turns 6 months old — and we celebrate with an exclusive look behind the scenes. Enjoy your autumn arts! **T. MICHELLE MURPHY, NEW YORK ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**



1

'On the Town'

A revival of Leonard Bernstein's "On the Town" adds the musical charms of a bygone era to this fall's lineup. The story follows three seamen on shore leave in New York City — having the time of their lives and falling in love. Opens Oct. 16, www.onthetownbroadway.com



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



10

'This Is Our Youth'

2

Michael Cera, Kieran Culkin and Tavi Gevinson are the faces of the '80s in "This Is Our Youth," a revival about a young adult who steals \$15,000 from his parents and tries to stash it in a drug dealer friend's home. The heist is complicated when a pretty girl with worldly ambitions shows up. *Opened Sept. 11; www.thisisouryouthbroadway.com*

'Love Letters'

3

This poignant drama involves two old friends, played by Brian Dennehy and Mia Farrow, who have spent the years as pen pals, regaling one another with stories of life and love. With a revolving cast, just a few of the talents set to take over the roles in the future are: Martin Sheen, Carol Burnett, Alan Alda and Candice Bergen. *Opened Sept. 18; www.lovelettersbroadway.com*

'Disgraced'

4

Broadway loves a good play about friends and lovers coming together for a dinner party. Ayad Akhtar's "Disgraced," about Muslim-Americans finding their identity on the Upper East Side, won the Pulitzer in 2013 and stars, among others, Gretchen Mol ("Boardwalk Empire") and Josh Radnor ("How I Met Your Mother"). *Opens Oct. 23; www.disgracedonbroadway.com*

'The Country House'

5

Manhattan Theater Club's "The Country House" is the newest play by David Margulies and the return to the stage for Tony- and Emmy-winner Blythe Danner. Directed by Daniel Sullivan, the play takes a hard look at a family of performers forced into each others' drama at a summer house in the Berkshires. *Opens Oct. 2; www.thecountryhouse.com*

'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'

5

Mark Haddon's best-selling novel by the same name is now onstage. The out-of-the-box drama tells of a young boy (Alexander Sharp) with social limitations who is accused of killing the neighbor's dog. The only way to prove he didn't is to solve the mystery himself. *Opens Oct. 5; www.curiousonbroadway.com*

'It's Only a Play'

7

This cheeky comedy is about a new show opening on Broadway, with very meta melodrama to follow. The revival brings together Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane for the first time since "The Producers," with other stars including Megan Mullally and Stockard Channing. It's also the Broadway debut for Rupert Grint ("Harry Potter"). *Opens Oct. 9; www.itsonlyaplay.com*

'You Can't Take It With You'

8

Starring James Earl Jones and Rose Byrne, who's hitting the Broadway stage for the first time, "You Can't Take It With You" is about the black sheep of an eccentric clan trying to marry a very normal-seeming young man — and how each of their families react to the union. *Opens Sept. 28; www.youcanttakeitwithyoubroadway.com*

'The Last Ship'

9

Musician Sting is the driving force (composer/lyricist) behind one of the season's most anticipated hits: "The Last Ship." Directed by Joe Mantello, this musical tells of the English seaside town of Walland. It questions what happens to those who run away from home — and what happens when they come back to a community that's moved on. *Opens Oct. 26; www.thelastship.com*

'The Real Thing'

10

Ewan McGregor makes his Broadway debut alongside Cynthia Nixon and Maggie Gyllenhaal in "The Real Thing," which is about a playwright married to his leading lady but falling for a friend. Their lives begin to imitate his stories, and he begins to question what's real. *Opens Oct. 30; www.roundabouttheatre.org*

2

www.metro.us



SPIDEY CHEAT SHEET

WWW.METRO.US/ARTS

Whether or not you plan to see the web-slinging wonder onstage this summer, he's bound to be the talk of the town. Bone up on your "Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark" conversation points now that it's (finally) officially open at the Foxwoods Theatre with our cheat sheet on the musical. Read it online at www.metro.us/arts.



High temp, hot theater

Whether seeking an air-conditioned activity to cool off on a balmy afternoon or some evening entertainment for your out-of-town guests, you can't go wrong choosing one of these top picks for theatergoing this summer. If you see all five, feel free to shout "Bingo!"

T. MICHELLE MURPHY
tmichelle.murphy@metro.us

SUMMER ARTS GUIDE 2011



► From the creators of "South Park," "The Book of Mormon" is fresh off sweeping the Tonys.



► Andre Holland, left, and Reg Rogers star in "All's Well That Ends Well."

1 Shakespeare in the Park – The can't-miss event of every summer, the Bard's works come to Central Park — and it's free! Two shows play in repertory through July 30: "All's Well That Ends Well" and "Measure for Measure." www.shakespeareinthepark.org

2 'Hair' – The latest incarnation of the 1968 favorite is back on Broadway after its national tour. There's a strict two-month engagement (July 5-Sept. 10), so you'll want to plan ahead for what may be your last chance to catch the 2009 Tony Award-winning musical about making love, not war. www.hairbroadway.com



4 'Sleep No More' – Extended twice due to popular demand, the new end date to Punchdrunk's sensational, immersive theater experience is Sept. 5. Though snagging tickets is competitive and discounts are sparse, the "Macbeth" reinvention is worth the effort to see before it disappears like a dream from NYC. www.sleepnomoreny.com

3 'War Horse' – The 2011 Tony Award winner for Best Play is about a horse estranged from its master and lost in the chaos

5 'The Book of Mormon' – If you can get tickets to this sold-out smash hit — and winner of nine Tonys — we suggest you do so. The creators of "South Park" deliver a ribald musical about not only Mormonism, but the inherent humor and heart behind all religious dogma. www.bookofmormonbroadway.com

of World War I, featuring innovative and breathtaking life-sized equine puppets. www.warhorseonbroadway.com

BR PETROBRAS presents

9th Cine Fest Petrobras

TICKETS FOR SALE ONLINE @ [ticketweb](http://ticketweb.com) info 305 218 4616 www.inffinito.com

June 19

@ Central Park Summerstage

FREE ADMISSION

Rumsey Playfield, entrance at 5th Avenue and 72nd Street

Outdoor Movie Screening

Mart'nália Elza

in Concert

Sponsored by

Official Airlines

Government Support

Supported by

Official Hotel

An Event by

Celebs reaching another stage in their careers

Theater. Here are just six of the big screen talents hitting 42nd Street this season.

There's no such thing as a straight-up "stage actor" anymore. Yes, many successful stage stars pack up their Broadway-vetted legitimacy and take a swing at making real money in movies and on TV — who can blame them? But there are also many screen stars going the other way — trying to revamp their careers, show off their range or fill their time between shoots

— popping in and out of the theater scene as they see fit. And that means we're seeing more and more film and television personas coming to New York City to prove they've got what it takes — live, eight times a week. The fall/winter season of 2014-2015 is proof of that, spilling over with household-name talent onstage. We barely have the space to write about all of the amazing actors you can catch, but here are six (and a few bonuses) that you'll definitely want to have on your radar.

MICHAEL BRACKEN
and T. MICHELLE MURPHY
letters@metro.us



It's selfie time for the extremely overqualified cast of "It's Only a Play." / F. SCOTT SCHAFFER

Rupert Grint

We watched him grow up as Ron Weasley in eight "Harry Potter" movies, and now he's crossed the pond to establish a creative beachhead on American soil. Rupert Grint flexes his comedic muscles

in his Broadway debut as a highly theatrical director in "It's Only a Play," which opened Oct. 9. He'll be put to the test against a coterie of established names, including Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick, Megan Mullally and Stockard Channing.



Michael Cera

Michael Cera has carved a niche for himself as an awkward adolescent onscreen. Now he's flexing that muscle with his Broadway debut in "This Is Our Youth," which opened Sept. 11. He plays a nervous young man trying to find his footing (and impress his "cool" friends, played by Kieran Culkin and Tavi Gevinson) in 1980s NYC.



Hugh Jackman

While Hugh Jackman received a Tony Award for 2003's "The Boy from Oz," the last time he was in a drama on Broadway (with "A Steady Rain"), the critical reaction was tepid. Rumor has it that "The River," which opens Nov. 16, will provide him with a sturdier vehicle to display his dramatic, non-musical acting chops.



Bradley Cooper

Two-time Oscar nominee Bradley Cooper is back on Broadway for the first time since 2006's "Three Days of Rain" (pictured). Now he's foregoing his leading-man looks to play a sideshow freak in "The Elephant Man." Cooper may be going for a Tony, which the play has won before. See how his acting holds up without his handsome face starting Dec. 7.



Glenn Close

Other than a fleeting guest star stint in 2003 ("The Play What I Wrote"), Broadway royalty Glenn Close hasn't appeared on the New York stage since 1995 (in "Sunset Boulevard," pictured). Starting Nov. 20, she stars in a revival of "A Delicate Balance." Her return from exile is much anticipated as she goes for Tony Award No. 4.



James Earl Jones

Perhaps best known as the chilling voice of Darth Vader, James Earl Jones has a string of Broadway credits — and Tony Awards to go with them. He's now playing the patriarch of a wacky family in the Pulitzer Prize-winning "You Can't Take It with You" (alongside Rose Byrne, who's making her debut on the Great White Way). The show opened on Sept. 28.

2

CULTURE

Onstage

The next wave

Two other big stars from television and film are soon taking the stage — but not in new plays. On Thursday, Michael C. Hall took over for Andrew Rannells (who replaced Neil Patrick Harris) in the Broadway premiere of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." Meanwhile, Emma Stone joins Alan Cumming onstage as Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" starting Nov. 11.

Offstage

The rock star

Onstage musically but not physically, Broadway first-timer and 16-time Grammy winner Sting has written the music and lyrics for "The Last Ship," a tale of the shipyards in working-class England inspired by his own childhood. If the Chicago critics are to be believed, this is one to watch.

Off-Broadway

The third act

And then there's America Ferrera, eschewing the bright lights of Broadway (and her "Ugly Betty" persona) for the intimacy of off-Broadway. She stars in "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," her third off-Broadway outing, starting Nov. 5. It's now in previews.



Original

'If/Then'

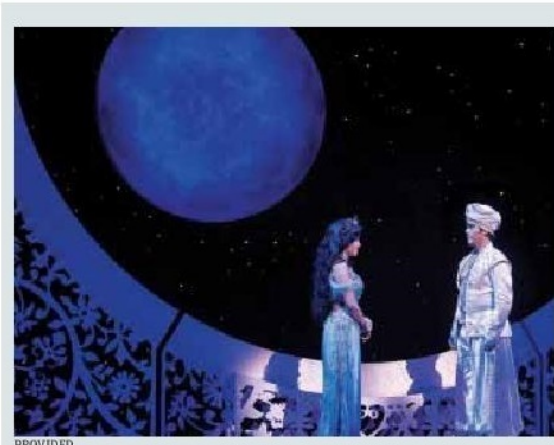
Idina Menzel is on fire right now, so it's the perfect time to return to her roots onstage in a new show about the choices we make and the parallel lives we might have led. The show also features her former "Rent" co-star Anthony Rapp. Opens March 30, www.ifthenmusical.com

Idina Menzel returns to Broadway after an Oscar-winning foray into the land of animation ("Frozen"). // JOAN MARCUS

Critic's picks:

There's something for everyone coming to the stage this spring.

Top musicals



Family

'Aladdin'

Should we say it's Disney getting the Broadway treatment, or is it the other way around? Either way, you know the drill: The animated film comes to life to dazzle adults and kids alike. But will this run be more of a "Lion King" or "Tarzan"? Opens March 20, www.aladdinthe musical.com

PROVIDED



Indie

'Hedwig and the Angry Inch'

The '90s cult classic finally moves to Broadway. But the biggest buzz surrounding this production comes from the star power of its lead, Neil Patrick Harris, as the transgender frontman of a maligned rock band. Opens April 22, www.hedwigbroadway.com

PROVIDED

Purist

'Cabaret'

This three-time Broadway revival is still going strong long after its 1966 debut. Most of us know the Alan Cumming rendition, which is perfect because he's back in the notoriously naughty role of Kit Kat Klub Emcee (rehearsal photo shown). Opens April 24, www.cabaretmusical.com



KEVIN TACHMAN

Universal

'Rocky'

We've all got that someone who's just plain hard to drag to the theater (aka husbands). "Rocky," the Sylvester Stallone-backed musical adaptation of the 1976 film, is the production that will finally get him there. Opened March 14, www.rockybroadway.com



T. MICHELLE MURPHY
@TMichelleMurphy
tichelle.murphy@metro.us



MATTHEW MURPHY

2

CULTURE

Through Aug. 11

'The Nance'

Starring Nathan Lane in the title role, this play tells the story of a conflicted gay burlesque performer who needs to conceal his identity and proclivities in the 1930s. The play won three Tony Awards in 2013, including for Best Scenic Design by John Lee Beatty. www.lct.org



Must-sees onstage this summer

Summer is known for being soaked in sweat, drowned in sunlight or drenched in downpour. Yet it's a veritable drought for exciting new theater. Many of the big-name shows from spring start to close (those that don't see a sudden flush of ticket sales following the Tonys). So what should you make sure to see this season before it's too late? Metro rounds up the best of what's showing now that won't be here when temps cool down and theater heats back up.

Through July 14

'Macbeth'

Following a successful 2012 run at Lincoln Center, Tony Award winner Alan Cumming ("Cabaret") brought his killer one-man show to Broadway to shock and awe audiences with his interpretation of the story of "Macbeth" that takes

place in a psychiatric ward following a terrible tragedy. Two stories unfold simultaneously, providing a new outlook on the familiar tale. It's not to be missed. www.macbethonbroadway.com



Through June 30, Aug. 18

Shakespeare in the Park

For the 51st year of its acclaimed free outdoor theater series, The Public Theater is staging two shows. "The Comedy of Errors" is now running and stars Hamish Linklater and Jesse Tyler Ferguson as a set of identical

twins who are caught up in a case of mistaken identity (see page 19). A new musical adaptation of "Love's Labours Lost" by the creators of "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson" is coming up next, starting July 23. www.shakespeareinthepark.org



Through Aug. 25

'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike'

Revitalized from its sold-out run at Lincoln

Center in 2012, this hilarious new play by Christopher Durang tells the story of two siblings who never left home and what happens when the sister who did returns — now a movie star with

a young beau. It stars Sigourney Weaver, David Hyde Pierce and Kristine Nielsen. It won the 2013 Tony Award for Best Play. www.vanyasoniamashaspike.com



3

Through Sept. 29



'Murder Ballad'

Great for a downtown date night, "Murder Ballad" offers an uninterrupted 90-minute set of rock ballads at the Union Square Theater. The story follows a tale of romance and deception leading to — you guessed it — a malicious death. The audience sits all around

the stage, while some witness it close-up at tables that the performers — including the mesmerizingly talented Caissie Levy, formerly of Broadway's "Ghost" — dance around and upon. www.murderballad.com

 **T. MICHELLE MURPHY**
tmichelle.murphy@metro.us

Theater for everyone



"THE HAIRY APE"



"JOAN OF ARC"



"AMELIE"



"COME FROM AWAY"



"THE PLAY GOES WRONG"



"GROUNDHOG'S DAY"

With a surge of interest in theater comes a range of new and groundbreaking productions on Broadway and beyond.



T. Michelle Murphy
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Original musicals

Of the new musicals opening in the coming weeks, one instant standout is "Come From Away" (March 12). After breaking sales records in theaters across North America, the touching true story about the 38 planes diverted to Newfoundland after 9/11 finally makes its way to Broadway. While both topical and flush with fresh talent — featuring 12 unknown actors

playing dozens of parts, representing over 16,000 displaced travelers — it's ultimately the well-deserved, hard-earned, feel-good parable about human kindness that even New Yorkers open their hearts for once in awhile.

The revivals

"Sunset Boulevard" is going to have to share the nostalgics with "Miss Saigon" (March 23), which is heading for its first-ever Broadway revival in just two weeks, at the theater where it debuted in 1991, led by newcomer Eva Noblezada. Another West End transfer, the production lands in the U.S. after breaking box office records in London. Then comes another female-powered revival with Bette Midler headlining

"Hello, Dolly!" (April 20). Fifty years since her Broadway debut, she's slipping into a role she seems destined to play, joined by David Hyde Pierce. Although that's a strong lineup of Broadway's moxiest broads, Glenn Close's Norma Desmond can probably handle a little competition.

Original Plays

Rest assured, there are also some original works to get excited about this season. One is "The Play That Goes Wrong," and unless something goes horribly wrong, it's set to open April 2 (and, wisely, not a day sooner). Produced by J.J. Abrams, this classic British comedy conjures the sort of mayhem that comes when a small theater

troupe's murder mystery gets a little too real. On the more dramatic side is "A Doll's House, Part 2" (April 27). Lucas Hnath's greatly anticipated sequel to Henrik Ibsen's classic is directed by Sam Gold and stars Laurie Metcalf as Nora, who returns home changed.

Film adaptations

Somewhere between the new musical and the revival lies the movie adaptation. They're coming fast and furious this spring, but if you want the absolute best bang for your buck, you'll want "Groundhog Day," which opens April 17. But if you want the absolute best bang for your buck, you'll want "Groundhog Day," which opens April 17. (Add some music and you've got yourself a

show!) But seriously, it's supposed to be a knock-out, and not just because Andy Karl ("Rocky") leads the cast. Romantics will also gravitate toward "Amélie" (April 3) with former "Hamilton" leading lady Phillipa Soo as the quirky crusader for good. Meanwhile, families may prefer the Christian Borle-helmed "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (April 23), or the now-in-3D "Anastasia" (April 24) — both with all-new songs plus the film favorites.

Off-Broadway

There's so much great theater beyond the Great White Way, too! You don't have to take it from us, you can just listen to the voices. Or, that's the gist of new rock musical "Joan of Arc: Into the

Fire," opening March 15 at the Public Theater. Nearby is the Geffen Playhouse's "In and Of Itself," which blends magic and theater for a unique show about identity by sleight-of-hand phenom Derek Delgado, opening April 12. Again, you don't need to take our word: It's presented by Neil Patrick Harris, who directed Delgado in 2013's "Nothing to Hide." If you do feel like venturing uptown, there's a promising installment of Eugene O'Neill's "The Hairy Ape," starring Bobby Cannavale. It opens March 30 at the Park Avenue Armory; and though we're just upright apes with keyboards ourselves, you can take our word on this one — if not for the set alone, which rotates before the audience on a disk.