

Current Broadway Shows

Contributed by Lou Fogelson
Tuesday, 20 June 2006
Last Updated Friday, 30 June 2006

Forget the critics, forget the costs; the imperative here is to see the current Broadway shows any way you can. See Neil Simon's version of John Waters's HAIRSPRAY. See the classics, like PHANTOM OF THE OPERA; LITTLE WOMEN; WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?; JULIUS CAESAR; FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Take in the more playful MAMMA MIA. Indulge in the grander THE LION KING. Revisit your passions in your favorite operas by attending the LA BOHEME re-make, RENT. But see current Broadway shows, one way or another.

What if you are not in New York or are not planning to visit New York, and can't get to the current Broadway shows? Don't despair. First of all, these shows run for years (the better and best ones, anyway). Second of all, the best are so successful and their so generous and respectful of the theatre arts world that the current Broadway shows get taken on the road—to Boston, Philly, San Francisco, and further.

What if you cannot afford current Broadway shows, whether they stay in the Big Apple or travel to Timbuktu? Ah, there's still no excuse: there are a number of ways you, too, can be saved. Or, er, you can save money and still be blessed with the most alluring, engaging, and cathartic of the arts:

If you are a student—call (or contact via the net) the box office, and ask about student discounts. Many if not most current Broadway shows' theatres, opera houses, and symphonic and other auditoria have a student price and/or a student group price.

If you are a senior citizen—seniors get discounted for most events, as they do for buses, restaurants, etc., and as they should. Be sure when ordering tickets, you ask about and for a senior discount.

If you can't—try for a same-day ticket. A ticket that is not called for at the reservation window by a certain time (often within a few minutes of the curtain call) is up for grabs—at a greatly discounted price. Show up the day of the performance for whichever of the current Broadway shows you want to attend. Go to the reserved tickets window and ask if there are any no-shows. Also, tell the teller you will check back (at his/her designated time), or ask when you can return to check for no-shows.

You can go to the TKTS booth in New York... sometimes the lines are like being in a European soccer stadium... so prepare to fight for your place in line.

If you don't mind—standing and watching the show is hella cheap. Here in San Francisco, if you take an SRO ticket (Standing-room only ticket), you pay one dollar and agree to stand in the very last aisle in the very back of the theatre—at the very top of the nosebleed seats. But, for a dollar, you can bring your homemade brownies and your binoculars to the current Broadway shows, shift your feet on occasion, even lean, in some instances—and see THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA, MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT, GOOD VIBRATIONS, ON GOLDIN POND, or any one of dozens of award-winning, heart-rendering, most brilliant and rewarding current Broadway shows.