

Phoenix Theatre: Innovating Productions & Encouraging the Arts

Written by Lindsey Clinkingbeard

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Phoenix Theatre's 93rd Season is spectacular with its combination of musical performances, classic productions such as *Les Misérables*, and state-of-the-art theatre seating. The local theatre continues to have a tremendous impact on the arts and culture the Valley has to offer.

Phoenix Theatre is one of the oldest art organizations in Arizona, having originally been founded in 1920 as the "Phoenix Players." With assistance from both the Heard family and Barry Goldwater, the theatre transformed itself throughout the 20th century into a facility that offers not only a spectacular experience of theatre, but one that encourages the arts here in the Valley.

In 2013 renovations were completed on the Phoenix Theatre that added a glass atrium lobby, additional rehearsal and entertainment spaces, and a new black box theatre. It is with these advanced upgrades that the Phoenix Theatre is able to continue developing young minds in the creative arts, whether it be launching a star into the performing industry, or opening a space for experimental theatre and for emerging playwrights and composers to work on their art and music.

In its 93rd Season, Phoenix Theatre is bringing back hits such as *Pippin*, *Rent*, and *Avenue Q*. Programs include the Mainstage Series of Broadway and other world-renowned musicals, the Black Box Series of Off-Broadway musicals and plays, and theatre for young audiences. Phoenix Theatre supports the Valley cultural arts through its extra-curricular educational programs for all ages. Above all, Phoenix Theatre is an organization that gives back to the community. Their partners that heal, a W.O.N.D.E.R. Project where artists visit children and adults in the hospital to entertain them and ease the tension they might feel. The theatre also offers a Theatre for Young Audiences where children are able to see a live performance and are offered an introduction to culture that will hopefully impact their lives irrevocably.

One summer hit you can't miss is the thrilling performance of *Les Misérables* that storms the barricade at Phoenix Theatre. Set in the early 19th century France, this epic tale of rebellion and passion centers on the nation in the grips of a revolution. Douglas Webster returns to play Jean Valjean, a French peasant who sets out on a quest for redemption while on the run from policeman Javert for breaking his parole. With the uprising closing in, Jean Valjean has no choice but to leave his past behind, fight for his life, and sacrifice everything for those he loves. Webster is joined by an extraordinary cast who together sing iconic songs such as "One Day More," "I Dreamed A Dream," and "Do You Hear The People Sing." *Les Misérables* will ignite the fire of passion inside of you as the Phoenix Theatre brings you closer than ever to the barricade in their comfortable and intimate space- so you can experience live the wonder of the *Les Misérables* performance. Tickets can be purchased by calling 602.254.2151 or by visiting <http://www.phoenixtheatre.com>. The show will be on-stage until June 1, 2014.

Ssit back, relax, and come enjoy Phoenix Theatre's astounding features, including a new bar area that opens out into an outdoor garden. It truly is an oasis in the heart of Downtown Phoenix.