

of the year. The show is based on the Manuel Puig novel about two men in a South American prison—a gay window dresser and a revolutionary—who find some tentative common ground. It won seven Tonys last year, including Best Musical. Book by Terrence McNally; music by John Kander; lyrics by Fred Ebb; directed by Harold Prince. With Howard McGillin and Brian Mitchell. \$35 to \$65. Opened: 5/3/93. *Broadhurst Theater, 235 West 44th Street (239-6200)*. 2 hrs. 30 mins.

Les Misérables—This pop-opera adaptation of the sprawling Victor Hugo novel recently notched its 3,000th performance (of the shows currently on Broadway, only *Cats* has been around longer). With a book by Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg; music by the latter; lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer. \$15 to \$65. Opened: 3/12/87. *Imperial Theater, 249 West 45th Street (239-6200)*. 3 hrs. 15 mins.

Miss Saigon—A reworking of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* set in Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. Score by Claude-Michel Schönberg; lyrics by Alain Boublil and Richard Maltby Jr.; directed by Nicholas Hytner. With Raul Aranas, Rona Figueroa, Sean McDermott, and The Helicopter. \$15 (for the rear of the rear mezzanine) to \$65. Opened: 4/11/91. *Broadway Theater, 1681 Broadway, at 53rd Street (239-6200)*. 2 hrs. 45 mins.

Passion—Winner of four 1994 Tony awards, for Best Musical, Score, Book, and Actress; based on the 1869 Italian novel *Fosca*, by Igino Tarchetti, about a woman's unrequited love for a handsome young army captain. Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim; book and direction by James Lapine. Donna Murphy's performance is historic: Jere Shea and Marin Mazzie are wonderful as well. \$40 to \$65. Opened: 5/9/94. *Plymouth Theater, 236 West 45th Street (239-6200)*. 1 hr. 50 mins. No intermission.

The Phantom of the Opera—An undeniable technical achievement, chock-full of gorgeous scenery and costumes. Davis Gaines plays the Phantom, who haunts the Paris Opera House as mercilessly as Puccini haunts Andrew Lloyd Webber. \$15 (for rear of the rear mezzanine) to \$65. Opened: 1/26/88. *Majestic Theater, 247 West 44th Street (239-6200)*. 2 hrs. 30 min.

Philadelphia, Here I Come!—The Roundabout Theatre Company tackles Brian Friel's drama about the rocky relationship between a father and son in rural Ireland. Robert Stattel is the father, and two actors play the son, Gareth, who's about to head for America. Robert Sean Leonard is Gareth in Private and Jim True is Gareth in Public. Also with Pauline Flanagan as the housekeeper. Directed by Joe Dowling. \$47.50. Through 10/22. *Roundabout Theatre, 1530 Broadway, at 45th Street (869-8400)*. 2 hrs. 40 min.

Tommy—The Who's angry rock opera about alienation and rebellion now ends by embracing the nuclear family. With such a famous musical source, the surprise here is that the real draw is director Des McAnuff's slick, cinematic staging. Winner of five 1993 Tony awards. \$20 to \$67.50. Opened: 4/22/93. *Street James Theatre, 246 West 44th Street (239-6200)*. 2 hrs.

Off Broadway

Previews and Openings

As You Like It—The acclaimed Cheek By Jowl company brings its all-male production of Shakespeare's comedy back to the colonies. The troupe has toured the world and received praise everywhere for this show. Directed by Declan Donnellan (who staged the London *Angels in America* and a reportedly brilliant revival of *Sweeney Todd*); designed by Nick Ormerod. With Adrian Lester a standout as Rosalind. Part of the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. \$15-\$40. 10/4 at 7; 10/5-10/8 at 8; 10/8 at 2; 10/9 at 3. *Majestic Theater, 651 Fulton Street, Brooklyn (307-4100)*.

A Cheever Evening—A. R. Gurney intertwines elements from eighteen works by John Cheever to create a new work that pays homage to one of his influences while showing Cheever's work in a new light. Uses Cheever's language to a great extent, though Gurney has made changes and additions to accommodate a theatrical production. Directed by Don Scardino. \$30. Tues.-Sat. at 8; Sat. at 3; Sun. at 3 and 7:30. In previews; opening 10/6. *Playwrights Horizons, 416 West 42nd Street (279-4200)*.

The Country Wife—William Wycherley's Restoration comedy is governed by three rules: A gentleman and a lady will freely copulate if left alone; husbands exist to be cuckolded and wives to be willingly seduced; and anyone who portrays himself as respectable is a hypocrite. A Jean Cocteau Repertory production. \$24. Thur.-Sat. at 8; Sun. at 3. 10/7-12/18. *Boulevard Lane Theatre, 330 Bowery (677-0060)*.

The Cover of Life—In 1943, a sophisticated photojournalist named Kate moves in with three small-town Louisiana war brides to work on a cover story about them for the famed magazine. Written by R. T. Robinson and directed by Peter Masterson. \$35-\$40. Tues.-Sat. at 8; Wed. and Sat. at 2; Sun. at 3. Previews begin 10/11; opening 10/23 at 6. *American Place Theatre, 111 West 46th Street (239-6200)*. IRLS

McNally, the Tony-award winner for *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and author of numerous well-regarded plays such as *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*. Directed by Joe Mantello, recent Tony nominee for *Angels in America*. With Nathan Lane, Stephen Spinella, John Glover, Justin Kirk, Randy Becker, Stephen Bogardus, and John Benjamin Hickey. \$40. Tues.-Sat. at 8; Sat. and Sun. at 2:30; Sun. at 7. Previews begin 10/11; opening 11/1. *Manhattan Theatre Club, 131 West 55th Street (581-1212)*.

Mathew in the School of Life/Part 1: The Lamb of God—An electronic opera/music-theater work by John Moran, the first in an expected operatic cycle. He collaborates again with Ridge Theater and director Bob McGrath, who worked with him on *The Manson Family* and other projects. To tell the story of a robotic Christ figure—an android built to absorb human suffering—that is trapped in a terrifying space station, it employs a completely prerecorded soundtrack, live-action video, slide projections, and a large cast. \$20. In previews; opening 10/6. Thur.-Sun. at 8. Through 10/23. *The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street (235-5793)*

Stay With Me—A new musical comedy written and directed by Christopher Jackson, arriving from a production in St. Louis for four shows only. Angelo is a young gay man reconciling who he is with the stifling restrictions of his Catholic and Hispanic upbringing. With Earl Weaver and Michael Deak. \$15. 10/8 at 7 and 10; 10/9 at 3:30 and 7. *Wings Theater, 154 Christopher Street (627-2960)*.

Uncommon Women and Others—A revival of the Wendy Wasserstein play about friends at a small New England women's college who meet for teas and socials and then for a reunion six years later. Directed by Carole Rothman. A Second Stage Theatre production. \$32.50 to \$40. In previews; opening 10/26. Tues.-Sat. at 8; Sat. at 2; Sun. at 3. Also, 10/2 at 7. *Lucille Lortel Theatre, 121 Christopher Street (239-6200)*.

Now Playing

All in the Timing—Six snappy one-acters by David Ives that are idiosyncratic and astringent—the laughter is steady and has an educated ring. An Obie Award winner for Robert Stanton's performance and an Outer Critics Circle-award winner for playwrighting. Directed by Jason McConnell Buzas. \$35, \$37.50. Tues.-Sat. at 8. (except Wed.); Wed. and Sat. at 2; Sun. at 3. Opened: 2/17/94. *John Houseman Theatre, 450 West 42nd Street (239-6200)*.

Blue Man Group: Tubes—Smart silliness, with toilet paper, neon-colored paint, cereal, etc. Kids love it, and adults can pretend the show's an ironic commentary on performance art. Directed by Marlene Swartz. \$25, \$40. Wed. at 5 and 8; Thurs. at 8; Fri. and Sat. at 7 and 10; Sun. at 5. Opened: 11/17/91. *Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette Street (254-4370)*.

Family Secrets—A one-woman comedy with Sherry Glaser, who plays everyone from a grandmother who finds love at 80 to a bratty teenager and her pregnant sister; co-written and directed by Greg Howells. \$35. \$37.50. Wed.-Sat. at 8; Wed. and Sat. at 2; Sun. at 3. Opened: 10/6/93. *Westside Theatre, downstairs, 407 West 43rd Street (307-4100)*.

The Fantasticks—The musical perennial that, happily, refuses to go away. \$32. Tues.-Fri. at 8; Sat. at 3 and 7; Sun. at 3 and 7:30. Opened: 5/3/60. *Sullivan Street Theater, 181 Sullivan Street (674-3838)*.

First Night—A romantic comedy about the reunion of Meredith, who's sort of a nun, and Danny, who's sort of a video-store manager but can't stop dreaming of more. Written by Jack Neary and directed by Tony Giordano. \$35. Tues.-Sat. at 8; Wed. and Sat. at 2; Sun. at 3. Opened: 9/11/94. *Westside Theatre (Upstairs), 407 West 43rd Street (307-4100)*.

A Good Man—A black comedy about mortician Martin Lamb's dream of a perfect funeral, which is quickly destroyed by his amorous son, mourners who are already bickering over the will, faulty air condition-



Mathew in the School of Life

John Moran's latest electronic opera combines a prerecorded score with video and slides. Moran plays the title role, a robotic, Christ-like figure trapped on a space station. At the Kitchen.

Grandma Sylvia's Funeral—An audience-participation comedy akin to *Tony 'n' Tina's Wedding*, written by Glenn Wein and Amy Lord, who met while performing in that show. When Grandma Sylvia dies, a power struggle ensues among family members even before she's been laid to rest. \$35, which includes a mitzvah meal. Opening 10/8. Sat. at 2. *Playhouse on Vandam, 15 Vandam Street (691-1555)*.

Heart of a Dog—A Russian professor tries to humanize a mangy stray dog but succeeds only in producing a loathsome human being. Satirizes everything from Karl Marx to animal rights. Written by Mikhail Bulgakov; adapted by Frank Galati. Directed by Nicholas Keene. With Jordan Matter and César Manzano. An Outer Circle Players production. \$15. Tues.-Sat. at 8; Sat. at 2; Sun. at 7. 10/7-10/23. *Harold Clurman Theater, 412 West 42nd Street (330-8703)*.

Killer Joe—Named one of the ten best plays of 1993 by the *Chicago Tribune*, this is a dark, violent, and sexually explicit satire about a family that's no stranger to blackmail, rape, murder, larceny, and trailer parks. (Is there a link?) Written by Tracy Letts; directed by Wilson Milam. \$15. Opening 10/6. Thurs.-Sun. at 8. 29th St. Repertory Theatre, 212 West 29th Street (465-0575).

Love! Valour! Compassion!—Eight men gather together at an idyllic country home over the course of three holiday weekends in the latest play by Terrence