





2010 TONY AWARDS

Enter Search

REGISTER NOW **SHOWS & TICKETS**

Broadway Tours Off-Bway

BWW TODAY

Article Search l atest News CDs/Books/DVDs Grosses 5/23 Photos Reviews *ne TV/Video

Web Radio

MESSAGE BOARDS

Off-topic West End Student

CITY GUIDE

Event Calendar Hotel Finder Restaurant Guide

FEATURES

Rialto Chatter Stage to Screen Tony Awards Twitter Watch

BROADWAY EXTRAS

Photo IO Your Settings

twitter

facebook



ABOUT US

Advertising Info Contact Us Forgot Login? Logo Archive Merchandise RSS/XML Feeds Submit Naws Your Web Site

SPONSORED LINKS

When we buy tickets for UK events, we usually go to GET ME IN! There you can find great deals on theatre tickets such as Teenage Cander Trust tickets but also on a lot amazing concert tickets

Broadway Tickets Wicked Tickets American Idiot Tickets Lion King Tickets Mamma Mia Tickets Memphis the Musical Billy Elliot Tickets Jersey Boys Tickets Addams Family Tickets

Jade Heart shines at Chicago Dramatists



Sunday, May 30, 2010; Posted: 04:05 AM - by BWW News Desk

Share | If I I I I



The World Premiere of Jade Heart is running now through May 30th at the <u>Chicago Dramatists</u> Theatre. Written by Senior Network Playwright <u>Will Cooper</u> and directed by Artistic Director <u>Russ Tutterow</u>, <u>Jade Heart</u> explores the universal question: "Who am I?" The piece goes further to ponder if this question answerable or does it just leave the questioner with more questions?

Abandoned as an infant by her Chinese mother, Jade McCullough, is adopted and raised American. She grows up in a white, middle-class home with only half a jade heart and half a world between her and the rubble of her past. As she grows into womanhood. Jade is on a guest to find the other half of that jade heart and with that, the missing pieces of her identity. It's like *Annie* for a new age (but without those mortifying songs).

I have to congratulate local playwright Will Cooper for this Trialy insightful original work. Although the show is a mere 90 minutes, he doesn't rush it. He takes his time in presenting a beautiful piece about one's struggle for

identity. Not only does he give you a girl struggling in relation to her family and in relation to her culture, he also layers in attention to China's one-child policy (established in 1979 to limit population growth). Sure, our relations with China are far different than they were thirty years ago. Nonetheless, Cooper reminds us that the repercussions of this horrific human rights violation are something that we're only starting to really deal with today.

This production of Jade Heart is completely worthy of its Jeff Recommendation. negotiated the space quite well, taking the audience from the quiet intimacy of the family kitchen to the sprawling fields of China with ease. The cast handled the dark and somewhat existential subject matter quite effortlessly. That's probably the easiest call of the day to make. Nonetheless, some special notice should go to Gordon Chow and Melissa Canciller. Handling most of the ancillary characters in the show, they brought humor, compassion and three-dimensionality to many of these characters allowing Cooper's world to come to life. Mr. Chow was downright charming as the Duan, Jade's boyfriend, and Ms. Canciller was hilarious as Jade's nemesis, Mei. She brought humor to the downright nastiness known as your childhood best friend. (I shudder when I think of my own.)

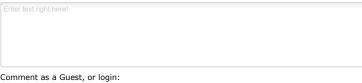
Support your local playwrights doing good work like *Jade Heart*. Before you know, they might be the toast of Broadway. (Ask <u>Tracy Letts</u> how that turned out). This stellar cast will only around until May 30th, so catch them while you can.

www.chicagodramatists.org

Comments

There are no comments posted yet. Be the first one!

Post a new comment



Comment as a Guest, or logi intensedebate W WordPress		d OpenID
Name	Email	Website (optional)
Displayed next to your comments.	Not displayed publicly.	If you have a website, link to it here.
Subscribe to None	•	Submit Comment

Comments by intensedebate



MESSAGE BOARD

Chicago Missing from N2N Tour Schedule The Showtune Mosh Pit 71 God of Carnage coming to Goodman Theatre Starting Chicago's BWWers Predict '09/'10 Non-Eq Jeff NEW Chicago's BWWers Predict the 2010 Tonys

BroadwayWorld BLOGS



BWW on the iPad

We Cast You...

Jeans on AMER! Broadway IDIOT

TWITTER WATCH



Are You Following BWW Yet on Twitter & Facebook?

Idina Menzel Wehsite Offering Prizes for Birthday Wishes

Photo Coverage: John Tartaglia and ImaginOcean Appear at Books of Wonder

TV: SFTH'S 31 Deconstructions in 31 Days - FOLLIES, MAME & DOW JONES!

STAGE TUBE: SEX AND THE CITY Stars Talk Gay Marriage

BWW TV: Seth's Chatterbox with Valerie Harper

STAGE TUBE: Broadway Bares Documentary Promo

STAGE TUBE: Diana DeGarmo Talks HAIR on CBS

Hottest Articles on BWW 5/23/2010 -5/30/2010

BroadwayWorld RADIO

MASTERWORKS

In the Heights Tickets

PONSORED LINKS

Wicked Review Jersey Boys Review South Pacific Review Jersey Boys Review

Whenever we want Wicked tickets we go to OnlineSeats. They have the best deals on all Broadway shows from Jersey Boys tickets for the jukebox musical to family friendly shows with Lion King tickets and Addams Family tickets. Even find the new Spiderman the Musical tickets.



Trish Vignola is a writer/performer with the critically acclaimed "Best Church of God" and is an Alumni and Staff Writer for "Big News: Chicago". When she's not writing for the stage, she's publishing her skewed sports musings at www.bleacherreport.com. Trish has a B.A. from Fordham University and an M.A. from Rutgers University. She is a member of Actors Equity and is currently one of the Assistant Directors for the Second City National Touring Companies.

the Second City National Touring Companies.

Past Articles by This Author:

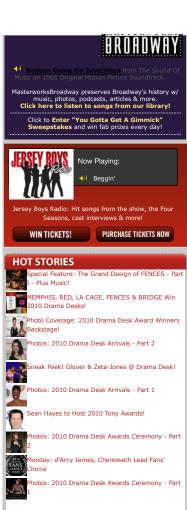
- Connect with Four Play at StudioBE Catch Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps before it's too late
- Jade Heart shines at Chicago Dramatists Tonight we're gonna party like it's…1916?

- An Exciting Endgame
 Shaw in the Nick of Time
 Life is a 'Cabaret'? Really?
- A Modern Girl's Guide To Fairy Tales 'Into the Woods' now at Theatre Building Chicago
- Stage Left does something out of the ordinary...inspires the audience to think A True History of the Johnstown Flood Now at the Goodman Theatre Stage Left does something out of the ordinary...inspires the audience to think

- Walker's 'Beautiful City' Promises But Can't Deliver

- Don't Miss Out on Abigail's Party
 'Distracted' at the American Theater Company
 The Violent Side of Tracy Letts
 The WNEP Theater brings The (edward) Hopper Project to Life
- Bed Hopping with Lucinda Macabaret A Ghoulish Good Time

- Bed Hopping with Lucinda "Rhymes with Evil� Scares Up a Good Time The Profiles Theatre hits the mark with "The Mercy Seat�
- 'The Fantasticks' Lands in the Dark Year Zero A Well Fought Victory
- Harry Chapin's Cotton Patch Gospel A Great Pick!
- The Caffeine Theatre's 'Under Milk Wood' is a Jolt of Fun
- More Articles by This Author...





LA CAGE AUX FOLLES AMERICAN IDIOT STEPHEN SONDHEIM A
LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
MICHAEL CRAWFORD AVENUE
Q MEMPHIS AMERICAN IDOL
ADAM LAMBERT ANDREW LLOYDWEBBER JULIE ANDREWS
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA KEN FALLIN
ADDAMS FAMILY CORBIN BLEU MOTE... ADDAMS FAMILY CORBIN BLEU MORE...



You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' recommendations



Idina Menzel Website Offering Prizes for

45 people shared this

Facebook social plugin



• BROADWAY NATIONAL TOURS ALABAMA - Birmingham ALASKA - Anchorage ARIZONA - Mesa ARIZONA - Phoenix ARIZONA - Tempe ARKANSAS - Little Rock CALIFORNIA - Costa Mesa CALIFORNIA - Los Angeles CALIFORNIA - Sacramento CALIFORNIA - San Diego CALIFORNIA - San Francisco CALIFORNIA - Santa Barbara COLORADO - Denver CONNECTICUT CONNECTICUT - Hartford DELAWARE FLORIDA FLORIDA - Ft. Lauderdale

FLORIDA - Jacksonsville

FLORIDA - St. Petersburg

FLORIDA - Orlando

FLORIDA - Tampa

GEORGIA - Atlanta

IDAHO - Boise

TITINOIS - Chicago

HAWAII

• INDIANA - Indianpolis • INDIANA - South Bend • IOWA - Des Moines KANSAS - Wichita KENTUCKY - Louisville LOUISIANA - New Orleans • MAINE MARYLAND - Baltimore MASSACHUSETTS - Boston
 MICHIGAN - Detroit
 MINNESOTA - Minneapolis MINNESOTA - St. Paul • MISSISSIPPI - Jackson MISSOURI - Kansas City MISSOURI - St. Louis MONTANA NEBRASKA - Omaha
 NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY NEVADA - Las Vegas NEW MEXICO - Albuquerque NEW YORK - Buffalo NEW YORK - Central New York NEW YORK - Rockland NEW YORK - Westchester

NORTH CAROLINA - Charlotte

NORTH DAKOTA - Fargo

NORTH CAROLINA - Raleigh

 OHIO - Cincinnati LONDON - WEST END OHIO - Cleveland
 OHIO - Columbus ARGENTINA • AUSTRIA • OHIO - Dayton • OKLAHOMA - Oklahoma City • AUSTRALIA OKLAHOMA - Tulsa BRAZIL OREGON - Portland CANADA - QUEBEC PENNSYLVANIA - Philadelphia PENNSYLVANIA - Pittsburgh CANADA - TORONTO FRANCE SOUTH CAROLINA • GERMANY SOUTH DAKOTA - Sioux Falls • INDIA • IRELAND TENNESSEE - Memphis TENNESSEE - Nashville • ISRAEL TEXAS - Austin ITALY TEXAS - Dallas • JAPAN • TEXAS - Houston • TEXAS - San Antonio MEXICO • <u>NETHERLANDS</u> UTAH - Salt Lake City NEW ZEALAND VERMONT VIRGINIA - Norfolk POLAND WASHINGTON - Seattle • PRAGUE

• RUSSIA • SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH KOREA

• SWITZERLAND

• SPAIN

• TURKEY

 CLASSICAL MUSIC COMEDY • CONCERTS DANCE • FASHION MOVIES MUSIC • OPERA • REALITY TV TV VISUAL ARTS

Click Here for XML/RSS Feeds

WASHINGTON, DC

WISCONSIN - Appleton

WISCONSIN - Madison

WYOMING - Casper

WISCONSIN - Milwaukee

WEST VIRGINIA

©2010. BroadwayWorld.com. All rights reserved.

Traffic Rank 11,926 Powered by @Alexa