



CATCH A RISING STAR: (center left to right) David Rossmer, Adam Chanler-Berat, Carson Elrod, and the cast of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Photo: O&M Co.



Theater Review

Peter and the Starcatcher: **Clever retelling of story behind Peter Pan for kids & adults alike**

PETER AND THE STARCATCHER

Written by Rick Elice

Directed by Roger Rees and Alex Timbers

Brooks Atkinson Theatre

256 West 47th Street

(877-250-2929), www.PeterandtheStarcatcher.com

By David NouNou

If you ever wondered how Peter Pan came to be the boy who never wanted to grow up and became the *Peter Pan* that James M. Barrie created, well...all the questions you may have had since childhood await you at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre, where it is revealed to you in the most delirious of ways, thanks to Rick Elise's nonstop, dizzying book and by meticulous, clever, and highly imaginative direction by Roger Rees and Alex Timbers. Oh, how much can be accomplished if people use their imaginations and come up with lots of funny, clever ideas.

Not only do you find out about Peter (Adam Chanler-Berat) who makes a most delightful and convincing orphan boy with no name, you will also find out about the maniacal Black Stache who ultimately becomes Captain Hook, played with delicious comic timing by the indefatigable Christian Borle (who has finally landed his star-making Broadway role). The third member of this puckish trio is Molly, the 13-year-old girl who rescues Peter in different ways, played most convincingly, charmingly and deftly by Celia Keenan-Bolger. Oh, yes, you will also learn about Neverland. Enough said; no spoiler alerts.

The rest of the cast, consisting of nine very able and talented actors, playing multiple roles, are a

delight and add to the hysteria and mayhem going on stage. The jokes and punch lines come flying left and right, and amazingly most of them stick. On the surface, it is safe to take the children to the show and they will enjoy the slapstick. However, it is the adults that will enjoy the humor and the double entendres. Truly a show for the whole family, but do not be surprised if you find yourself enjoying it more than the kids

I do have to give one more shout-out to Rick Elise's original ideas and the expert direction by Roger Rees and Alex Timbers. Had it not been for their vision to bring this outlandish mayhem to the stage in lots of original ways, it would not have been half as enjoyable as it is.

Edited by Scott Harrah

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