The Shubert’s acrobatic cats and abracadabral cats

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.
Based on T.S. Eliot’s Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats.
Directed by Trevor Nunn.

At the Shubert Theatre until November 7.

By JULIAN WEST

In test runs, it is possible to spot a hit musical long before it opens, without the advance publicity for Phantom of the Opera not only before its next-month opening on Broadway, but even long before its London debut. What has yet to happen is the first success of the decade in its enormous staying power. Well into its seventh year, there is no reason to suppose Cats will ever close; the persistence of “Memory” is eternal.

How is this phenomenon to be explained? Surely not by Andrew Lloyd Webber’s indifferent score, or by an international resurgence of interest in the poetry of T.S. Eliot. Neither is it fascination with Cats as theater; it has only the runners of plot and no message. These modern productions see all very well, but Cats is all song and dance and surface meaning, an evening of glitz and pure entertainment. It is all cream.

But the opening night audience lapped it up, from the big production numbers to such guaranteed crowd pleasers as the set in any case, the properties are all there down to the last giant soup-ladle. The makeup is spectacular, and the costume design is cunning: while the faces are strikingly feline, and they even look the part. They look like oversized slippers, and on the stage is多万元 tower, a pile of outsized junk which reaches the sky. The cats masquerade as dogs: although they look just like dogs, all of their costumes also look like oversized slippers and cerial boxes.) The cats gathering in a Junkyard are clearly a cat gathering in the theater, while the cats are come to the theater; while the cats are come to the stage, the humans are here to tell a story.

The story they tell is shallow to a fault, since tonight is the night of the annual ball, the humans are here to tell a story. The story they tell is shallow to a fault, since tonight is the night of the annual ball, the humans are here to tell a story. The story they tell is shallow to a fault, since tonight is the night of the annual ball, the humans are here to tell a story.

Let’s make a difference together

UA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

TO RUN: Contact your Dorm President or the IFC - Steve Margossian 267-1801
Yangki Kim 536-1300

TO VOTE: BAKER ................. Wednesday, September 23, all day (in lobby)
BURTON ................. Wednesday, September 23, 10pm
EAST CAMPUS ......... Wednesday, September 23, 10pm Talbot
MACGREGOR .......... Wednesday, September 23, 10pm B-Entry
NEXT HOUSE ............. Wednesday, September 23, 9:30pm
RANDOM ............... Thursday, September 24, after study break

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