



Gender Bender

THE FLORENTINE Opera kicks off its 85th anniversary season with a production of *Prince of Players*, a show set in 17th century England but with a decidedly contemporary gender politics twist: When King Charles II makes a decree “he shall no longer play a she,” an actor who once monopolized roles such as Juliet and Lady MacBeth must suddenly reconsider his career.

The show’s Milwaukee run marks a regional premiere and The Florentine is also capturing the production’s first ever live recording. Florentine staple Keith Phares stars while original composer Carlisle Floyd serves as artistic advisor.

Prince of Players
Oct. 12 and 14 at the Marcus Center. For tickets and information, go to FlorentineOpera.org.

WUWM 89.7
MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC RADIO(I)

Tune in to WUWM’s “Lake Effect” Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. to hear more about the story.

4

Tonys won in 2008

Rise Up

LAST YEAR The Milwaukee Repertory Theater opened its season with *Guys and Dolls*. It’s a classic to be sure. But it’s also, in 2018, the vanilla ice cream of theater: staid and conservative, as easy on the (musical) taste buds as it is on the mind.

But May Adrales, who joined The Rep as new associate artistic director in spring of 2017, didn’t come to Milwaukee to maintain the status quo. She came to break it.

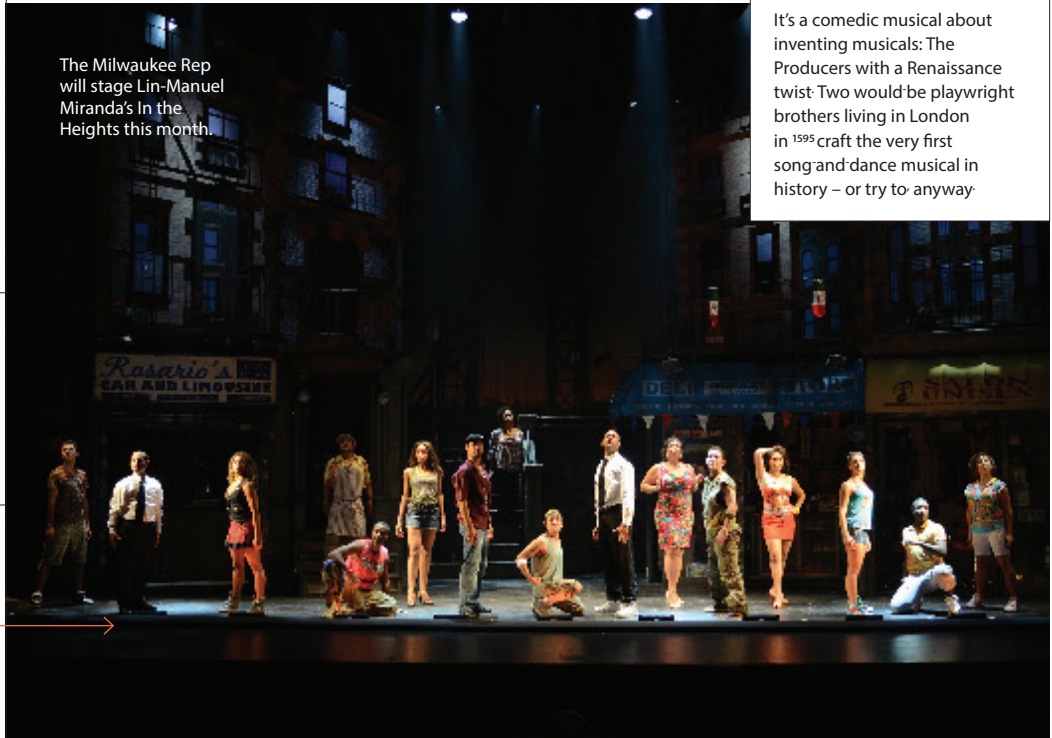
With this fall’s *In The Heights*, she hopes to do just that.

The show Lin-Manuel Miranda created before *Hamilton*, *In The Heights* rocked the 2008 Tony Awards, creating a new kind of contemporary classic by embracing hip-hop and salsa over standard song-and-dance numbers, emphasizing timeliness over timelessness. And yet the material is as prescient as ever, a story still dying to be told. And in Adrales – whose lengthy directorial resume of bold, progressive, new-age theater makes her a near-perfect stylistic match – it seems to have found a fitting storyteller.

“It was so empowering to see people of color in these rich, fun, very complex roles,” says Adrales. “It’s one of the few musicals that I really love.”

She hopes the show’s run in Milwaukee will draw new faces into The Rep, whose audiences aren’t typically “representative of the city as a whole,” she says. “But this musical does represent the entire community of Milwaukee. My hope is that it’s an invite to people who don’t often experience theater.” - BRIAN BOYLE

In The Heights, Sept. 18-Oct. 28 at the Quadracci Powerhouse Theater. For tickets and information, go to MilwaukeeRep.com.



The Milwaukee Rep will stage Lin-Manuel Miranda’s *In the Heights* this month.

The Must-Hit LIST



Skylight Music Theatre: *Hairspray*
NOV. 16-DEC. 23
BROADWAY THEATRE CENTER

“You Can’t Stop the Beat” of this Broadway sing-along *Skylight* is set to cast over a dozen local high schoolers to fill out the ensemble for this big-haired, big-hearted show set in Baltimore in the 1960s.



Broadway at the Marcus Center: *Something Rotten!*
OCT. 16-21
MARCUS CENTER

It’s a comedic musical about inventing musicals: The Producers with a Renaissance twist. Two would-be playwright brothers living in London in 1595 craft the very first song-and-dance musical in history – or try to anyway.

FOR EVEN MORE MUST-SEE CULTURAL EVENTS, VISIT MILWAUKEEMAG.COM/FALLARTSGUIDE2018