

Selected Reviews:

MATT SCHICKER

Director and Producer

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

MATT SCHICKER, *Producer*

October/November 2008

Playhouse on the Green, Bridgeport, CT

Bridgeport News, Stratford Star, Waterbury Republican, Milford Mirror

“A most entertaining and uninhibited cast presents a production filled with phantoms as well as a Transylvanian transvestite....The movie is no comparison to this live stage show....This wickedly-wild production is a definite treat for fans of *The Rocky Horror Show*.”

Middletown Press

“A visit with the cast of *The Rocky Horror Show* may be just what the mad scientist doctor ordered....this is definitely not your every day boy meets girl and then they fall in love musical. If you're feeling brave, venture over to Playhouse on the Green...You just might find yourself on stage doing 'The Time Warp' in your underwear, wearing a red boa.”

BARNUM

MATT SCHICKER, *Producer*

June 2008

Playhouse on the Green, Bridgeport, CT

Connecticut Post

“P.T. would approve...It's tempting to rise from one's seat and start marching.”

Bridgeport News, Stratford Star, Waterbury Republican, Milford Mirror

“Before the curtain went up opened on *Barnum*, the audience was already thoroughly engaged.”

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

MATT SCHICKER, *Producer/Director*

May 2008

Playhouse on the Green, Bridgeport, CT

Bridgeport News, Stratford Star, Waterbury Republican, Milford Mirror

“There's a new wind stirring things up in Bridgeport's theater scene. It's call Matt Schicker, and he has breezed in as the new artistic director for the 54-year-old not-for-profit theater that has weathered storm after storm. **If ever a new artistic director made the right choice in selecting an inaugural production, it's Schicker....** On a symbolic level, Schicker's inaugural production connects audiences to the city and to this beautiful little playhouse and in turn connects them all to the art of theater. Featuring an impressive cast, **Schicker has managed to pull together actors of various performance skills and rendered a unified, polished production.** Janet Dunson's performance is as natural as it gets. She owns the role of Ouisa. Whether she is being repulsed by the sexual encounter she observes with her house guest or trying to help a man who wants to buy

into the upper class, she is always convincing....Carl Tallent's set design is simple, sleek, functional and effective. Costume design by Meredith Neal is right on....Todd Hendricks' original music, along with Jim DeVivo's sound design and additional original music, add polish to this production. It is seamlessly directed by Matt Schicker. **This is a first rate non-Equity production.**"

Connecticut Post

"Under the new direction of Producing Artistic Director Matt Schicker, the future [of Playhouse on the Green] looks promising....John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* is on the boards, and **Schicker exactly captures Guare's style of whimsy and mystery, comedy and drama.** He has put together a charming production which gives new hope to the Playhouse....Janet Dunson, who plays Ouisa, is the very heart of the play, holding it all together....As Paul, the young con artist, Khalil Muhammad is most appealing....John Pyron as Geoffrey, the South African entrepreneur, delivers a suave, convincing portrayal, and Elizabeth May, as Ouisa's daughter, adds fire to the show....All told, Playhouse on the Green, under its new director, is off to a hopeful start. "

TWELVE ANGRY JURORS

MATT SCHICKER, *Director*

February 2008

St. Bart's Players, New York, NY

Off-Off Broadway Review

"A stirring (and involving) production of Reginald Rose's *Twelve Angry Men*....**The direction works quite well and Schicker should be credited with being able to bring out a surprising amount of humor (much of this coming from the women) and thus adding an extra layer to what is normally a very serious show....A stellar cast and strong direction.**"

YANK! A New Musical

WINNER: 2008 New York Innovative Theater Award for Outstanding Production
of a Musical

NOMINEE: 2008 GLAAD Media Award for Best Off-Off Broadway Musical

MATT SCHICKER, *Producer*

October/November 2007

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

NEXT Magazine

"If you're looking for a well-crafted, gay-positive musical that's sexy and heartfelt, **you'll have to look long and far to find anything as terrific as *Yank!***"

The Brooklyn Paper

"***Yank!* is one of the most heartening theatrical experiences in years....**The choreography of this show is brilliant....The show never apologizes for its honesty...at the end of *Yank!* the audience (including me) was on its feet."

TalkinBroadway.com

"The old-fashioned musical is neither dying nor in need of saving...if you love Golden Age-style musical romances, you can still find them - if you know where to look. Right now, that place is Brooklyn, where The Gallery Players....[*Yank!* is] **a touching and oh-so-tuneful look at a side of World War II we seldom see...**"

TheaterMania

“An old-fashioned musical with a contemporary, socially conscious sensibility.”

Back Stage

“*Yank!* overlays a modern gay sensibility on a typical wartime crew to illustrate the sheer hell, internal and external, gay soldiers endured....More-complex emotions than many musicals allow are present....Clearly, everybody on stage cares a lot about this project, and **The Gallery Players has put great effort into it: Broadway actors, a six-piece orchestra that sounds bigger, a nearly all-Equity cast, and a cartload of costumes.**”

Off-Off Broadway Review

“It would be a pity to miss a show as lovely as David and Joseph Zelnik’s *Yank!*....**Tender, touching and funny, *Yank!* is a delightful musical, well produced by The Gallery Players.**”

nytheatre.com

“Joseph and David Zelnik serve up a beautifully composed, entertaining slice of our secret history. But because they tell this coming out story with such rich historical and psychological detail, *Yank!* engages fundamental questions of love, citizenship and cultural belonging, beyond the obvious audience of lesbians and gay men....***Yank!* is poised to become a musical of real stature.**”

Q Onstage

“***Yank!* is moving, heartbreaking, funny, lyrical, endearing, and painful.**....The show boasts a tour-de-force by Nancy Anderson.”

VICTOR/VICTORIA (First New York City Revival)

MATT SCHICKER, Director

May 2007

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

nytheatre.com

“The Gallery Players’ new revival of the Blake Edwards-Henry Mancini-Leslie Bricusse musical *Victor/Victoria* is a lot of fun. The pride of Park Slope delivers a hugely ambitious production...everything a theatergoer could ask of a musical comedy. Director Matt Schicker and a bubbly cast of 20-plus harness their collective energies towards wowing the audience with an old-fashioned dose of musical theatre razzmatazz, and come up victorious....**Kudos to Schicker for pulling a production of this magnitude together....His impressive work shows that he’s a firm practitioner of what he preaches in the show’s program notes: that *Victor/Victoria* should “give you that special ‘high’ that only a good musical can bring.” That it does. I was humming and dancing all the way home from the Slope.**”

The Brooklyn Papers

“The musical version of the film [*Victor/Victoria*] is being presented with panache by the stalwart Gallery Players in its first New York revival since the original Broadway run ended almost exactly 10 years ago. Ostensibly about the complexities of love, the current production reveals the show more as a celebration of friendship. The juice, abundantly provided here by a cast with ample energy and style, comes from the connection and conflict between pals....Choreographer Stacy Moscott Smith and **director Matt Schicker should get the credit for the style and zing of this production, and for keeping the cast grounded in the reality of the relationships while providing endless invention in comedy bits and telling pieces of behavior.**“

Back Stage

“Director Matt Schicker ingeniously re-creates more of the Broadway blocking than you’d think possible, including much of Edwards’ signature elaborate slapstick.” *[MATT’S NOTE: Although it’s very nice that Back Stage paid me this “compliment”, the truth is that I “recreated” virtually none of Edwards’ blocking, admire it as I do. I think the reviewer is confusing the inclusion of certain “slots” for gags which are indicated in the script itself as actually copying the gags themselves, which I have not done. Virtually every gag in this production is different, some a variation, on Edwards’ original. Just needed to defend my original ideas!]*

Off-Off Broadway Review

“A tasty revival.... An almost silent scene taking place between two adjoining rooms, and featuring two maids (one in drag) slamming doors and a window ledge is played brilliantly.”

SIDE SHOW (First New York City Revival)

MATT SCHICKER, Director

February/March 2006

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

Bill Russell, author of the book and lyrics to SIDE SHOW

"The Gallery Players presented SIDE SHOW with obvious love and professionalism. **The story is clearly told and there are many moving moments.** The musical values are excellent and the choreography sparkles with inventiveness. My gratitude to all involved for their care and dedication."

Off-Off Online

“Central to the show...are the twins, and **director Matt Schicker has helmed an earnest production that smartly puts Daisy and Violet's humanity at the forefront.** The action unfurls at a brisk, heady speed, carrying the audience along with the twins on their turbulent whirlwind adventure toward realizing their dreams.”

nytheatre.com

“**Director Matt Schicker and choreographer Joe Barros have done a splendid job re-creating the tacky/glorious milieu of that great American entertainment form in its decline...**the show biz scenes all fizz and sparkle with exuberance and style. Schicker and Barros have made the show's opening into a discomfiting voyeur's paradise...Schicker has put two authentic "freaks" on stage...they do things like hammer things up their noses and suspend bowling balls from their earlobes. It all makes for a dazzling opening, and one that evokes the seedy, sad, disreputable environment from which we can only root for Daisy and Violet to escape....**Schicker uses the intimate space to maximum effect,** and the show moves smoothly and quickly through numerous scenes...**undeniably enjoyable and highly professional.**”

The Brooklyn Eagle

“The Gallery Players’ production [of SIDE SHOW], directed by Matt Schicker, delivers **a show that will please both newcomers and established enthusiasts alike.** From the live band and diverse choreography to the winning performances of Tiffany Diane Smith and Kristen Sergeant as the Hilton twins, this long-time Brooklyn troupe is sure to boost the musical’s popularity.”

New York Theatre Wire

“**Schicker has a great sense of the absurd and the sensitivity to make the absurd poignant....it’s riveting.**”

Off-Off Broadway Review

“The Gallery Players production was a much more rewarding show than to be expected based on the failed Broadway run....Matt Schicker directed a smooth production, utilizing Joseph Trainor’s set of rolling sideshow panels to good effect and herding the ensemble through some crowded sequences with style....For a big musical produced on a shoestring, **this was a terrific event, especially as it served to showcase a great group of young talent.**”

THE FULL MONTY (First New York City Revival)

MATT SCHICKER, Director

April/May 2005

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

Terrence McNally in *The Daily News*

“It’s a lovely production and I’m very happy with it.”

Back Stage

“Not every local group would boast performers of this caliber, nor an assured director like Matt Schicker, who, besides helming a well-paced production, gives full value to the human drama. **There's more warmth here than on Broadway. At the conclusion of the company's first performance, book writer McNally was beaming.**”

André De Shields, star of the original Broadway production of *The Full Monty*

“The Gallery Players put on a *Monty* whose authenticity and entertainment value were **equal to that of the Broadway production.**”

nytheatre.com

“Director Matt Schicker has, to his great credit, located the joyful life-affirming center of this show, and every moment of his superb staging supports *The Full Monty's* singular defining idea: that life is hard and short and so may as well be enjoyed and celebrated, every chance we get. **Schicker's staging is hugely successful in every department.** He's cast the show with actors who look like real guys, as opposed to pretty boys; all six of his leading men are very convincing, as well as quite talented.”

On Off-Off

“Monty allows for great interpretation and director Matt Schicker has gone back not to copying the Broadway show but to the source material, the staging and the emphasis being very different. The actors have been allowed to find their own pace and emphasis. **In a remarkably short rehearsal period Matt and the cast have pulled off a coup.**”

The Brooklyn Eagle

“For those seeking a **raucous, inspired theater experience which also has dramatic depth**, take a trip to 14th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues in Park Slope for The Gallery Players’ production and first New York City revival of Tony-award winner Terrence McNally’s *The Full Monty*, with music by David Yazbek. The intimate environment of Brooklyn’s premier off-off-Broadway enclave doubles the fun as the vibrant and eclectic cast unflinchingly brings the audience into an experience of the triumph of the human spirit while boldly and smartly challenging sexual and emotional boundaries.”

The Brooklyn Papers

“Now, for the first time since its exposure on Broadway, "The Full Monty" is back in town at the Gallery Players, and it's EVERYTHING one would expect...the concept is so engaging and The

Gallery Players' cast, directed by Matt Schicker, is **so enthusiastic and sincere, that the show is irresistible.**"

Off-Off Online

"Director Matt Schicker deserves accolades for helming such a tight production and, most important, for pulling together a gifted ensemble."

Off-Off Broadway Review

"How lucky McNally and Yazbek are that it is The Gallery Players behind this revival. Their capable cast, impressive production values, and upbeat direction have made this a genuine boon to the Off-Off-Broadway community. **The direction by Matt Schicker brings out the fun of this show.** Those who missed the Broadway run will do well to catch this incarnation. In fact this production is something all theatre-goers shouldn't miss."

TheaterMania

"In recent years, The Gallery Players of Brooklyn have offered top-notch stagings of such disparate shows as *The Most Happy Fella*, *Chess*, and *Hair*, so I'm not at all surprised that they're now doing such an excellent job with *The Full Monty*. As directed by Matt Schicker and choreographed by Dax Valdes, with musical direction by Ken Legum, this is **a damn fine production** of a show that would have lasted much longer on Broadway if it hadn't had *The Producers* to contend with."

HAIR

MATT SCHICKER, *Producer*

October/November 2004

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

Michael Butler, Producer of the original Broadway and film version of HAIR

"Steven Smeltzer directed and Matt Schicker, Produced a really great version of HAIR. I don't say that often. We all have spent decades involved with HAIR. Many productions have been seen. In my case thousands of nights have been spent watching HAIR. Your production was one of the best we have seen in a long time. The spirit, movement, and adherence to original qualities really gave us a super evening. Thanks you so much for reminding us of the great meaning of HAIR.."

James Rado, co-author and star of the original HAIR

"HAIR at The Gallery Players in Brooklyn conjured many magic moments & memories..."

Annie Golden, star of first Broadway revival and film version of HAIR

"The Gallery Players' recent production [of HAIR] was a sweet sense memory for this ancient actress. Its purity was so powerful because director/choreographer Steven Smeltzer understood, honored, and captured HAIR's simplicity. Together with his cast of gifted, gorgeous guys and girls (natural beauties all) and the support of his producer, Matt Schicker, The Gallery Players production recreated the organic innocence, honesty, and wisdom of the original."

TheaterMania

"...a near-Broadway caliber production..."

nytheatre.com

"See this show because it's simply terrific: an electric entertainment featuring a host of talented, enthusiastic young artists who make glorious theatre out of a work that was written before most

of them were even born; yes, it's in Brooklyn, but it's the most vibrant and genuinely exciting musical in all of New York City this season.”

Off-Off Broadway Review

“The production values were unexpectedly high for Off-Off Broadway.”

**GODDESS OF FIRE
YOGA KILLS**

Black Box New Play Festival 2004

MATT SCHICKER, *Director*

June 2004

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

nytheatre.com

“There's a real gem in the middle of this program, a charming comedy called *Goddess of Fire*... delightfully warm-hearted....*Yoga Kills* takes a slapstick look at the world of competitive yoga...quite enjoyable....skillfully directed by Matt Schicker. The acting is of fine quality as well and was extremely well-received...”

**COUPLE CAPACITY
ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME**

Black Box New Play Festival 2004

MATT SCHICKER, *Director*

June 2004

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

nytheatre.com

“The highlight is the first piece, Staci Swedeen's *Couple Capacity*, in which a lonely young woman shares her romantic disillusionment with the audience as the excruciatingly affectionate couple beside her gets closer and closer to playing footsie in the biblical sense. Two plays later, in a nifty bit of synergy, the couple returns in Judd Lear Silverman's *All the Comforts of Home*, in which the female (Maria Ryan) discovers, upon her first visit to his home, that her boyfriend (Craig Colfelt) keeps a very peculiar family pet in the bathtub... a solid achievement.”

NAKED MEN

MATT SCHICKER, *Director*

April 2004

nytheatre.com

“Matt Schicker's perky staging shrewdly eschews both cliché and gratuitousness.”

Rich Orloff, *playwright*

“I thought you did a wonderful job directing NAKED MEN. It flowed, it was fun, and you got two fine performances. What could've easily been a one-note joke kept me interested and amused. It was by far my favorite show of the evening. Thanks for the laughter and the good work.”

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN

MATT SCHICKER, *Director*

January/February 2004

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

Off-Off Broadway Review

“Matt Schicker smartly directed the production with a meticulous attention to detail and adept eye for staging.”

The Brooklyn Papers

“This production has the warm glow of simplicity and the clear ring of truth.”

The Brooklyn Eagle

“The production [of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*] now showing at The Gallery Players...goes back to both the original book and original spirit of Gesner's simple play. In other words, director Matt Schicker and his talented cast of 20-somethings have no intention of aping a Schulz strip...the characters as new to us as they were when Gesner first wrote the musical.”

nytheatre.com

“Director Matt Schicker has wisely and cleverly chosen to present the cast as Brooklyn kids...”

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

WINNER: 2004 Off-Off Broadway Review Award for Best Musical

MATT SCHICKER, *Producer*

October/November 2003

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

Rupert Holmes, author and composer of THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

“This is my favorite *Drood* in over a decade...and one of the top 3 productions ever! I went to see The Gallery Players' production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* blithely unaware that I would soon be witnessing...a production that — in wit, color, vitality, musicality, inventiveness and passion — was as endearing as *Drood* on Broadway, in London or anywhere around the world.”

Off-Off Broadway Review

“*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* was presented in a remarkable revival by The Gallery Players....The already cleverly crafted show received impeccable treatment....A thoroughly exhilarating experience—even those who have seen the show before would find new things in this brilliant production. The show is both fun and funny. The production of the show was absolutely flawless. This is a great production of a great musical....There could not have been a better *Drood*.”

nytheatre.com

“I actually saw *Drood* when it premiered on Broadway almost twenty years ago...I had a much better time this past weekend at Gallery Players' revival.”

The Brooklyn Papers Viewer's Choice

“ According to The Gallery Players, [author and composer Rupert] Holmes was delighted with the end result....According to this reviewer, audiences will certainly be delighted... *Drood* is a show that definitely should be seen once, and hopefully more than once to get the full flavor of the different endings....It's a hit! Don't miss it! Sensational! One of The Gallery Players' best!”

BLACK BOX NEW PLAY FESTIVAL

MATT SCHICKER, *Producer*

June 2003

The Gallery Players, Brooklyn, NY

Off-Off Broadway Review

“Elegantly produced....An ambitious program of 20 new plays (mostly one-acts) performed over the course of four weekends...quite impressive given the exigencies of so many productions in so limited an amount of time.”