

SPAMALOT

Book by Eric Idle

Presented by Broadway Across America

Nov.11-Nov. 16, 2008

For tickets call:(757) 671-8100

Hello, I'm Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large.

Words such as - irreverent, wacky, silly, funny, hilarious, scatological, satirical, politically incorrect - all come to mind when one attempts to describe this wild, unique spoof. In case you are the last person on the planet not to know the story, it's about King Arthur and his knights searching for the Holy Grail. Except, the legend has never been told quite like this.

Lovingly ripped off from the motion picture "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", Arthur and his knights encounter killer rabbits, Broadway musicals, plague victims, knights who say "Ni" and a parcel of other belly laughing situations. The show is an encyclopedia of humor. It uses puns, local jokes, anachronisms, cross dressing, and audience participation in addition to the devices I've already mentioned, and some that I've already forgotten. Even "she-with-the-\$150,000.00- wardrobe" is spoken of..

This production of SPAMALOT has been on the road for two years or more. You would never know it. Everything about it is as fresh and sparkling as the original must have been when it opened on Broadway over four years ago. It is, after all, directed by the brilliant Mike Nichols who has come up with hit after hit on Broadway for over 30 years. Choreographer Casey Nicholow is a perfect creative partner for Mr. Nichols.

Heading the outstanding company of highly skilled performers are Broadway veteran Jonathan Hadary and Esther Stilwell, a young lady destined for a stellar career. Hadary stands out for losing his head quietly and with subtlety while others are losing theirs with wild abandon. Stilwell as the Lady of the Lake (also known as Guinevere) has a voice that can go everywhere. She plays the comedy with the same ease she exhibits as a singer and she's lovely to look at. What more do you need? .I wish I could name the entire cast. Time only allows me to say each and everyone is flawless.

The former presenter of shows at Chrysler Hall went belly up because of financial shenanigans. The new organization, Broadway Across America, got off to a shaky start, but with SPAMALOT, the Great White Way has returned to Hampton Roads. Happy days are here again.

This is Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large and I'll see you at the next opening.