

Hello, I'm Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large. I think I've seen all the major American productions of Peter Pan with the exception of Maude Adams' rendition. On Broadway I saw Jean Arthur in the non-musical version and heard Mary Martin sing in the original musical production. Both are remembered fondly. I remember the enchanting Mary Martin being Mary Martin being Peter Pan. On the other hand, Cathy Rigby IS, quite simply, Peter Pan. She immerses herself totally in the role.

She and the other members of this first class memorable company have now gone from the Ferguson Center in Newport News to create Never Land on some other stage in another city. They will indeed be remembered with extra special fondness as will my first visit to the Ferguson Center at Christopher Newport University.

I hope I can return to this most impressive new performing complex many times over the coming years. University President Paul Tribble says that the University's goal was to build a world-class center for the arts. He and his associates have taken a giant step in achieving their goal.

You approach the hall outside through a curved colonnade with beautifully designed graceful arches. When you enter the lobby, you know you have entered

a lobby. It's large but excitingly inviting with beautiful marble floors and lots of windows that make it feel light and airy.

The auditorium is also large but manages to feel warm and smaller than it is. one notices lots of wood. There are two balconies, two tiers of orchestra seating and two levels of loosely defined box seating. The ceiling is opened to the rafters with catwalks for hanging and focusing lights. This is an attractive but no nonsense proscenium theatre that can accommodate a total of patrons,

We drove over from the Ghent section of Norfolk on a Saturday afternoon. It took us forty minutes door to door in moderately heavy traffic. There was lots of free parking.

It was an absolute joy to behold Cathy Rigby cavort her way through the story of the boy who never grew up. This is her final tour in the the role. After all, as the program notes, she's logged more frequent flyer miles as Peter Pan than any other actress in the part. She rightly deserved the elegant Ferguson Center for her farewell visit.

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