

# Off Broadway

## How to use this section

Some Off Broadway theaters accept Theatre Development Fund vouchers. A book of four is \$36 and are available at [www.tdf.org](http://www.tdf.org). Call each theater for information about wheelchair access and devices for the hearing impaired.

Listings are chosen at the discretion of the editors. **TONY** does not accept compensation of any kind in exchange for listing events or venues.

► Reviewed in this issue

\* Recommended or notable

♠ Cheap

♪ Musical or song-based play

VIDEO For video clips, reviews and more, log on to [timeoutnewyork.com/video](http://timeoutnewyork.com/video).

\* ♪ **Astronome: A Night at the Opera** *Ontological Theater at St. Marks Church, 131 E 10th St at Second Ave (212-352-3101). Subway: L to First or Third Ave; 6 to Astor Pl. \$25-\$35. Thu-Sun 8pm. 1hr. One intermission. Through Sun 5.* Richard Foreman's new piece, which incorporates 34 minutes of John Zorn's art-speed-metal, is the avant-garde king's most energized and unpredictable offering in years. What does its dense, nightmarish inventory of images signify? Who knows. Just enjoy the superloud soundscape.—David Cote

♪ **Being Audrey** *Connelly Theater, 220 E 4th St between Aves A and B (212-564-0333, [transportgroup.org](http://transportgroup.org)). Subway: F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave. \$38-\$45. Mon 7pm; Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 2, 7pm; Sun 3pm. Through Apr 26.* A woman in crisis takes an imaginary roamin' holiday through the films of that fairest lady of them all, Audrey Hepburn, in this original musical by Ellen Weiss, James Hindman and Cheryl Stern—the last of whom also plays the main role. Jack Cumming III directs for his rising company, Transport Group.

♠ **Chasing Manet** *Primary Stages at 59E59, 59 E 59th St between Madison and Park Aves (212-279-4200, [ticketcentral.com](http://ticketcentral.com)). Subway: N, R, W to Lexington Ave-59th St; 4, 5, 6 to 59th St. \$60. Tue 7pm; Wed-Fri 8pm; Sat 2, 8pm; Sun 3pm. Through May 2.* Two feisty women dream of fleeing their nursing home for Paris in a new comedy by Tina Howe (*Coastal Disturbances*). Okay, the premise doesn't sound promising, but the cast sure does: It includes Jane Alexander, Lynn

Cohen, Vanessa Aspillaga, Jack Gilpin and the daffy Julie Halston, directed by Michael Wilson for Primary Stages.

\* **Distracted** *Laura Pels Theatre, 111 W 46th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-719-1300). Subway: See Broadway listings for subway info. \$70-\$80. Tue 7:30pm; Wed 2, 7:30pm; Thu, Fri 7:30pm; Sat 2, 7:30pm; Sun 2pm. 2hrs. One intermission. Through May 17.* Lisa Loomer's dizzyingly fast-thinking comedy, about parenting in the age of attention deficit disorder, features complex multimedia, a charismatic cast and bright, multitasking direction by Mark Brokaw—not to mention shrewd use of a child actor. It's a spring-jointed issue play, hyperactive enough to tickle both your brain and your funny bone. Cynthia Nixon is perfectly cast and tenderly nuanced as the unnamed, smart but jelly-willed mama of a boy with behavioral problems.—DC

♪ **Everyday Rapture** *Second Stage Theatre, 307 W 43rd St between Eighth and Ninth Aves (212-246-4422). Subway: A, C, E to 42nd St-Port Authority. \$75. Tue 7pm; Wed 8pm. Through May 31.* Broadway bombshell Sherie Rene Scott (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Little Mermaid*) stars in this pseudoautobiographical story—cowritten with Dick Scanlan—of a diva torn between her Mennonite background and her desire for mass adoration. Michael Mayer (*Spring Awakening*) directs; the score ranges from Judy Garland songs to U2 and David Byrne.

\* ♪ **Garden of Earthly Delights** *Minetta Lane Theatre, 18 Minetta Ln between Sixth Ave and MacDougal St (212-307-4100, [gardenofearthlydelightsnyc.com](http://gardenofearthlydelightsnyc.com)). Subway: A, C, E, B, D, F, V to W 4th St. \$40-\$69.50, premium \$110. Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 3, 8pm; Sun 3, 7pm. 1hr 10mins. No intermission. Through Apr 5.* Hieronymus Bosch's teeming, hallucinatory triptych painting on Eden, fleshly pleasures and damnation inspired Martha Clarke's 1984 hit. Both newbies and nostalgists can welcome the return of Clarke's stark, luscious phantasmagoria, equal parts erotic rapture, comic grotesque and kinetic terror.

(The attractive performers in semitransparent outfits don't hurt.)—DC

\* **The Good Negro** *Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St between Astor Pl and E 4th St (212-967-7555). Subway: N, R, W to 8th St-NYU; 6 to Astor Pl. \$60-\$70. Thu, Fri 8pm; Sat 2, 8pm; Sun 2, 7pm. 2hrs 40mins. One intermission. Through Sun 5.* The fulcrum of Tracey Scott Wilson's civil-rights drama is one Rev. James Lawrence, but everything about him seems fit for a Martin Luther King, down to his complex imperfections. Wilson gives this important chapter of history a solid reading, burnished by Liesl Tommy's incisive staging. Curtis McClarin is effective in the main role, but the supporting actors emerge more vividly.



Cheryl Stern channels a film icon with high style.