

Now Forming Near Rudder

The Players of Rigoletto



Meet **RIGOLETTO**,
a court jester and star of our show.



Meet **THE DUKE**,
admirer of Rigoletto's daughter.



Meet **THE COUNTESS**,
admirer of The Duke.



Meet **GILDA**,
Rigoletto's daughter.

It's an opera. But don't let that scare you. The storyline is easy to follow. The costumes are vibrant and colorful. The singing...well these opera voices are some of the best you'll ever hear. Plus, it's presented by MSC OPAS, the same organization that brought you RENT last year.

MSC OPAS continues the Main Stage season by presenting an Italian-style tragedy on a grand scale with RIGOLETTO. To be performed by the distinguished Opera Verdi Europa, RIGOLETTO tells a touching story between a devoted father and a loving daughter. Only - their story turns tragic when she falls in love with the Duke and under the curse of a mysterious Count.

RIGOLETTO
Opera Verdi Europa
A Company of 100 With a Live Symphony Orchestra
Thursday, October 2 at 7:30 PM
Rudder Auditorium

TICKETS
845-1234
www.MSCOPAS.org

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MSC OPAS
Three Decades of Performing Arts

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BOOK WORMS

"Diary" By Chuck Palahniuk

Fans of Chuck Palahniuk (Fight Club, Lullaby) have come to expect certain things when reading his novels. They expect mesmerizing sentence structures, social satire and plot twists so sudden and steep that you need a map to navigate Palahniuk's warped prose. "Diary," the latest novel from Palahniuk, delivers all of the above elements, but is missing the heart and originality of his earlier works.

From the novel's onset, an artistic housewife must cope with her husband's suicide attempt and the secret that the members of her island community hide from her. The way the story is executed is startlingly cookie-cutter for an author who has risen to fame for his highly original novels. The style Palahniuk uses never fails to please. Strategically placed words and repetition help this novel to transcend regular ghost stories.

The story begins as Missy Wilmot, professional housekeeper, strives to support her daughter and mother-in-law after her husband's failed attempt to take his life. Keeping a "coma diary," Missy recounts her frustration with the increasing number of tourists invading the island she has called home since her marriage.

Soon, Missy finds herself seemingly possessed by a famous long-dead painter and painting like a madwoman. A plot put into motion by the mysterious denizens of the island, Missy's paintings seem to spell "doom" for the rest of the world.

By no means bad (much more entertaining than the last few Stephen King novels combined), "Diary" fails to live up to the expectations that have been set upon Palahniuk's works.

Full of wonderful wordplay and meaningful statements on life, "Diary" is sure to please readers who are ready for something a little more poignant than Dean Koontz or Peter Straub, but longtime readers of Palahniuk may want to wait for his next work, a horror anthology that has been causing listeners to faint at recent readings in California.



--Robert Saucedo

"Sandman: Endless Nights" By Neil Gaiman

In 1989, Neil Gaiman (American Gods, Neverwhere) created "The Sandman", a revolutionary comic book distributed by DC/Vertigo that would re-establish and redefine the way

society and critics view the comic book industry. Telling the story of Morpheus, the lord of dreams, and his family, the series ended in 1992. Gaiman always promised he would return to the cast of characters that populated the award-winning series. "Sandman: Endless Nights," newly released graphic novel, is that promise kept.

This beautifully bound hardback collection of seven never-before-seen stories will charm longtime fans of Gaiman and adventurous newcomers alike. The collection is composed of seven stories, each focusing on a member of Morpheus' family: "Death," "Delirium," "Despair," "Destruction," and "Destiny." The collection begins with a story Death illustrates by P. Craig Russell (Dr. Strange). Gaiman's depiction of Death is that of a young goth girl, friendly as she is beautiful. The story manages to entertain and offer a poetic insight into the fear of death.

Up next is a beautifully painted story, Desire. While this particular story isn't the best in the collection, a mediocre Neil Gaiman still manages to offer more charm and emotion than most authors can manage in their careers. Milo Manara (Metal Hurlant) offers lush scenes and wonderful colors that stand out above and beyond Gaiman's mediocre story.

Gaiman teams up with Miguelanxo Prado (Men in Black: The Animated Series) to tell an untold story in the history of Morpheus and himself. A wonderful story packed full of inside jokes and trivia for fans of the DC universe, the story delivers in spades. Barron Storey (Heavy Metal) and Gaiman deliver "15 Portraits of Despair," a gloomy look into the dark side of humanity.

Emotionally draining, this story's artwork and nonlinear format will wrench reader's hearts and souls. Bill Sienkiewicz (Elektra: Assassin) illustrates a highly confusing story about the youngest member of the family, Delirium.

Gaiman's insane story goes hand in hand with Sienkiewicz's wild artwork. Glenn Fabry (Preacher) offers a science-fiction story featuring Destruction that poses a lot of questions and offers few answers. Frank Quitely (New X-Men) teams with Gaiman to end the collection with a tour through the garden of Destiny.

Amazing artwork and an eccentric collection of stories make this book sure to please fans of Neil Gaiman, eager for his return to comics. This graphic novel may be a tad inaccessible for new fans, but any reader willing to take a chance on the book that is a showcase for some of the best art and writing the comic book medium has to offer should not miss out.

"Sandman: Endless Nights" may have a hefty price tag for a comic book (\$24.95), but this 150-plus-page installment in the Sandman Library is an excellent addition to any library.



--Robert Saucedo



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Also, be sure to visit our booth, located between Fermier and Thompson Halls, to learn more about these and other opportunities.

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