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Top 10 Wonderful Things About Austin Theatre in 2008 (In No Particular Order)

By Avimaan Syam

- 1) ***Ophelia* (Tutto Theatre Company)** Full of magic moments and dramatic direction, *Ophelia* wowed this admitted Bardophile from start to finish.
- 2) **Marc Pouhé's voice** I could listen to this actor give Macbeth's speeches all day. He should report on the current economic disaster. This, I think, would make us feel better.
- 3) **Opening of the Long Center** How many companies have already had the chance to perform in such a wonderful setup?
- 4) **Janelle Buchanan and Angela Rawna's back-and-forth scene in *Doubt* (Zach Theatre)** An unexpected direction in the play – an amazing performance of it.
- 5) **Waiting for my Passing Fancy** The combination of the fantastical atmosphere of the Rubber Repertory show, the grand duchess, and wondering why that guy chose to have his pubes shaved.
- 6) **Hyde Park Theatre's comedies** Both *The Lonesome West* and *Dog Sees God* kept me doing my involuntary, awkward guffaw all night (through their dark and sincere moments).
- 7) ***Ka-Baam!!* (Austin Improv Collective)** Austin's improv scene has grown to include plenty of great runs of theme shows, such as Asaf Ronen's superhero tribute.
- 8) **Beautiful designs at UT** Austin has seen productions of *Assassins* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* many times, but gorgeous set and costume designs made UT's Department of Theatre & Dance productions stand out.
- 9) **Getting snared in *Dug Up* (Austin Playhouse)** Wonderfully acted with a tale that sucked you in, Cyndi Williams' Southern drama was a treat of a Gothic ghost story.
- 10) **St. Ed's on *Cloud 9*** I was proud to honor St. Edward's University productions at the Austin Critics Table Awards, and I enjoyed watching new Artistic Director David Long's entertaining take on *Cloud 9*.

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