

THEATRE-GOERS REPORT RASH OF

SCIENCE FICTION SIGHTINGS



OF ALL THE GENRES local theatre covers (period drama, romance, mystery, fantasy adventure, etc...), the least explored is science-fiction.

Picture, if you will, a season that subtly changes this with a number of sci-fi themed shows making their shadowy appearance on somewhat unexpected stages. In October, the UWM

Department of Theatre presents its production of *Einstein's Dreams*.

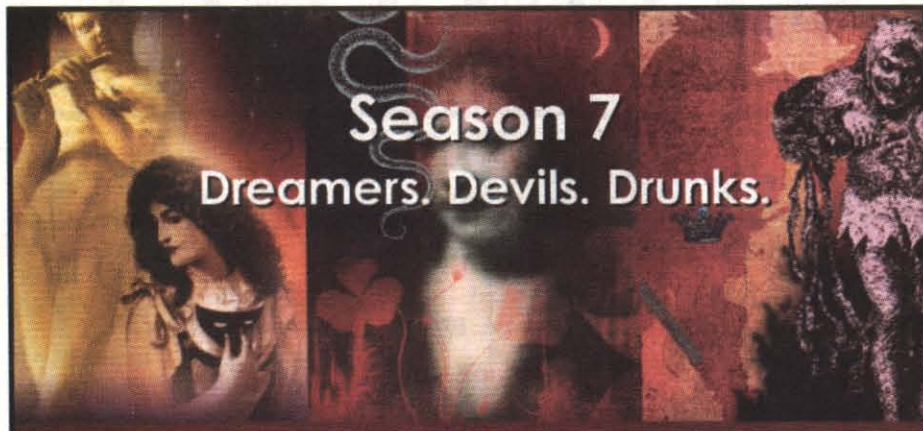
Based on the book by Alan Lightman, the story follows the imagination of a young Albert Einstein as he dreams of strange worlds tangled in the fourth dimension. Rebecca Holderness, who directed an acclaimed production of the play nearly 10 years ago in New York, is scheduled to direct. UWM Theatre, which launched Holderness' jaw-droppingly beautiful production of *From These Green Heights* last April should make this one of the most

visually captivating plays of the season.

In November, **Off The Wall Theatre** will have its chance to deconstruct an inadvertent sci-fi classic with its production of *A Clockwork Orange – The Musical*. Alex, charismatic leader of a group of young thugs in a dark, future England, engages in all manner of violence until government behavioral conditioning programs him to be pacified. The musical, based on **Anthony Burgess'** original novel, features lyrics written by Burgess himself. Incidentally, Burgess was a bit nonplussed by the success of the novel and subsequent film adaptation. Feeling the story was overrated, he considered the novel to be one of his lesser works. In any case, fans of the classic **Stanley Kubrick** film can probably expect homage paid to it. Will the energizing melodies of music by **Ludwig Van** be pumped through a cheery synthesizer? Time will tell.

As if one sighting weren't eerie enough, a second sci-fi musical opens at the beginning of 2007, courtesy of the **Milwaukee Repertory Theatre**. *They Came From Way Out There* begins abducting audiences in the **Stackner Cabaret** on January 12. The creative team behind the recent Rep Cabaret hit *Chaps!* invites audiences to help choose the next president of a fictitious group known as "The Paranormal Society" in one of the more off-beat musicals to hit stages next year. While it's guaranteed to make light of the subject of paranormal phenomena, there's no question that it will appeal to anyone who looks expectantly at the night sky. Also, it'll be interesting to see what the Cabaret will come up with for theme drinks and meals *this time* – anyone for an MJ-12 Burger with Stanton T. Friedman Fries? It looks like the rest of the menu has been redacted by the government...and why are those three pale men in black suits approaching with martinis? Who ordered *that*?

Also in January, **First Stage Children's Theater** presents a sophisticated drama based on *The Giver*, the award-winning first book in children's author **Lois Lowry's** sci-fi trilogy. Set in a utopian world, a 12 year-old boy named Jonas is apprenticed to the title character. Jonas is to be the "Receiver of Memories," and embarks on a journey to confront the world about the humanity it has lost. This is pretty heavy stuff for a children's show, but it's a challenge that one of the nations biggest and best children's theatre groups is more than equipped to handle.—RB



Much Ado About Nothing, September 16-October 15, 2006
Broadway Theatre Center Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway

Macbeth, March 3-11, 2007
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol, Brookfield

1 Henry IV, April 21-March 20, 2007
Broadway Theatre Center Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway

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