

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Cats production is 'spectacular'

I can't account for the first 100 years, but since 1995, there hasn't been anything as spectacular as Cats appear on the stage at the Opera House.

Unlike the other major modern musicals (Phantom of the Opera, Les Miz, Miss Saigon), Cats is more an opportunity to sing some songs and do some dancing than it is to tell a story. There is a story connecting everything, but the story really isn't necessary. I can't account for the first 100 years, but since 1995, there hasn't been anything as spectacular as Cats appear on the stage at the Opera House.

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John Swartz



The singing is confident, in tune, and expressive — all the time. Janet Martin's (Grizabella) rendition of Memory is one of the singing is confident, in tune, and expressive — all the

the stage and the space above. The junkyard spills out beyond the edge of the stage.

There are numerous points of entry and different levels on which to place the characters. The central piece, an old car, morphs into a couple of different things, and Grizabella climbs a stairway to the heavens that appears out of the junk pile at the end of the play.

The lighting is different. The junkyard spills out beyond the edge of the stage.

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sources is Dave Campbell. His direction of this is nothing short of genius.

Many of the cast have done this play before in the big leagues. The choreographers, Gino Berti and Kiri-Lynn Muir, have also done the drill before. The orchestra is playing in the shop area. Some of the cast haven't worked with this level of collaborators before. There is a lot of room for failure but Campbell pulled direction of this is nothing short of genius.

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have done to the country they are supposed to be putting first.

The trouble is, the race for the president is at a dead heat, so apparently there are enough people who failed reading (or viewing in this case) comprehension in school. Go figure.

Having this movie in town means you don't have to go see Spider-Man 2, the most boring movie I've seen in a while. are supposed to be putting first.

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DeKeyzer, and a tribute to Gordon Lightfoot that will have many of the weekend's acts performing.

That's a nice mix of musical styles (folk, blues, a little rock) and artists known and unknown. The great thing about Mariposa is the programming choices they make. You go to hear the names you know, and get blown away by the names you don't.

By the way, Blackie and the Rodeo Kings are three musical giants in one band. Tom Wilson led Junkhouse; Stephen Fearing is one of Canada's premier Folk artists; and Colin Linden is one of Canada's best bluesmen, aside from being the most sought after. programming choices they make. You go to hear the names you know, and get blown away by the names you don't.

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