

## Stage Struck: The Way-Off-Broadway Guide to the Quad Cities Theatre Scene

Written by Mike Schulz

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My mother sends out an annual holiday letter, which serves as a *de facto* State of the Union for our family - a recap of what that she and Dad did during the year, a checklist of casinos they visited (which pretty much covers the same ground), and, of course, an update on the lives of their children.

In the past, recipients of Mom's missives would get the skinny on my brother and his wife, my sister, her husband, and their pets, and my adventures would be detailed with a succinct "And Mike went to the movies." (I was thrilled last year when she provided the addendum " ... and the theatre.")

But this year, it seems that bro and sis have been working overtime to ensure that I get even less coverage than usual; my brother's workplace sent him to Japan for 11 days to assist a company that's building robots, and my sister managed to trump *that* by having her first baby.

Meanwhile, Mike went to the movies.

*And* the theatre.

So, this year, I've composed my *own* holiday letter of sorts. True, it isn't robots in Japan, and it certainly isn't a baby, but the chance to see 64 area shows over 47 weeks was its own thrilling, unique experience, and one I feel privileged to have enjoyed. I can't imagine a cooler way to have spent my time in 2006.

(Well, maybe if I'd fathered a baby robot in Japan ... .)

The Year in Theatre: 2006

["Lovin' Summer, Had Me a Blast"](#)

["Community \(Theatre\) Spirit"](#)

["Surprising Surprises"](#)

["Risky Business"](#)

["What Have We Learned?"](#)

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["Theatre Essentials: A Dozen Names to Remember"](#)

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