

SCOTT JOSEPH ON FINE DINING • BOB MORRIS ON BLUE MEMORIES

ORLANDO HOME & LEISURE

SEPTEMBER 2010



TOP 20
ARTS
EVENTS

FALL FASHION
FLASHBACK
GET THE LOOK

MINI-MIRACLES:
ORLANDO'S BEST BABY DOC

MINI-MANSIONS:
RIGHTSIZING LUXURY HOMES



THE *Can't Miss* LIST

From perilous puppets to vintage vampires, from old-school musicals to daffodil columns, here are our picks for the season's top 20 cultural events.

by Elizabeth Maupin
photographic illustrations by Greg Johnston

FALL

COMPANY

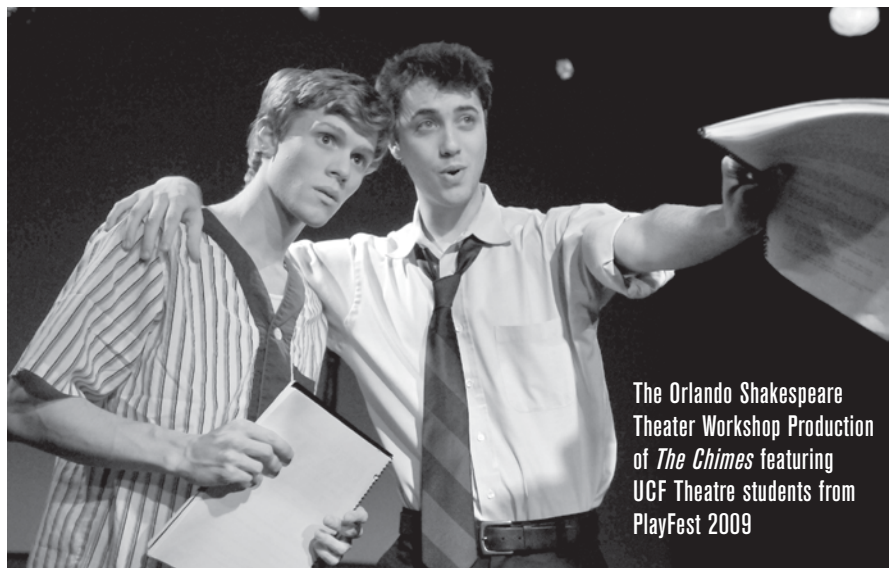
Mad Cow Theatre

A post-modern valentine, rendered Sondheim-style.

Stephen Sondheim is on the list of idols of nearly every sophisticated musical-theater lover, so when a Sondheim musical shows up in Orlando, it's very good news. And *Company*, which comes to Mad Cow Theatre Sept. 10 - Oct. 17, is not just any Sondheim musical.

Co-written with George Furth in 1970, it was among the first of its kind to set aside a conventional plot, consider the style of performance as important as the story and replace a happy ending with Sondheim's trademark ambiguity.

Company broke all the rules, but its story line is user-friendly – a youngish single New Yorker who just can't seem to commit – and its score includes some



The Orlando Shakespeare Theater Workshop Production of *The Chimes* featuring UCF Theatre students from PlayFest 2009

modern-day classics, from the hyper-sonic "Getting Married Today" to the heart-breaking "Being Alive." Frank McClain directs this ambivalent valentine to marriage and friends. madcowtheatre.com.

THE CHIMES

UCF Conservatory Theatre

PlayFest reading returns in full-staged rendition.

When Kevin Christopher Snipes's pre-school drama *The Chimes* had a reading at Orlando Shakespeare Theater's PlayFest in early 2009, audience members were bowled over, not just by the story of four clever teenagers brought together by their love of Shakespeare, but also because most of the terrific PlayFest cast consisted of students and professors from the University of Central Florida.

Now the UCF Conservatory Theatre

Dance

At the Center for Contemporary Dance, it's rehearsal time for a member of the Moore Dance Project, founded by the Center's Artistic Director, Dario Moore. The Moore Dance Project, which encompasses the area's first African-American dance ensemble, will present an original work later this year, choreographed by Moore and based on interviews conducted in the 1930s with former slaves. centerfordance.org.