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# SHOW BUSINESS

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## THE BIG BANG ATOMIC PREMIERE OF NEW MUSICAL ON THEATER ROW, NYC

Theater Ink by John Rowell



You have to hand it to the creators of the new musical *Atomic*: it's pretty brave to write a show about a bomb. Unfortunate semantics aside, this show really is about a bomb—a real bomb, perhaps the *ultimate* bomb, the atomic bomb, a show that blasts open the doors of The Manhattan Project, that infamous Government funded program of top scientists who were given the task of creating the world's first Atomic Bomb. A top-notch cast, headed by New York theater vets **Sarah Gettelfinger, Jeremy Kushnier** and

**Euan Morton**, along with **David Abeles, Alexis Fishman, Jonathan Hammond, James David Larson, Preston Sadlier** and **Grace Stockdale**, are all down for the count, under **Damien Gray's** direction. *Atomic's* authors are **Danny Ginges** and **Gregory Bonsignore** (Book and Lyrics) and **Philip Foxman** (Music and Lyrics.) Performances take place at **The Acorn Theatre** at **Theater Row** beginning June 26.

[www.AtomicTheMusical.com](http://www.AtomicTheMusical.com).

### BLINK AND YOU'LL MISS IT: CONTEMPORARY LOVE STORY AT BRITS OFF

**BROADWAY:** The hugely popular *Brits Off Broadway* festival continues to impress. Currently up and running is playwright **Phil Porter's** *Blink*, a love story for our disembodied age, set against the backdrop of contemporary London where the worlds of two shy individuals collide. **Thomas Pickles** and **Lizzy Watts** recreate their original U.K. performances, under the direction of **Joe Murphy**, and performances are up and running through June 29 at **59E59 Theaters**. [www.59e59.org](http://www.59e59.org).

### BELBER PLAY SET FOR LABYRINTH THEATER THIS MONTH:

Playwright **Stephen Belber** has had numerous Off-Broadway successes, most notably *Tape* and *The Laramie Project* (associate writer) and the subsequent films based on his plays. Now his new play, *The Muscles in Our Toes*, is set to begin June 14 in a production courtesy of **Labyrinth Theater Company**, at the troupe's home in the West Village at the **Bank Street Theatre**. Belber's dark comedy (seems there are no other kinds of late!) takes a look at four friends at their high school reunion, who begin to ponder a plan to free their old friend who's been kidnapped by a radical political group. Veteran Off-B'way director **Anne Kauffman** is at the helm, and the cast includes **Amir Arison, Nadia Dajani, Bill Dawes, Samuel Ray Gates, Matthew Maher** and **Mather Zickel**. Opening night is set for June 26.

<http://labtheater.org/the-muscles-in-our-toes/>.

### A TALE OF TWO FESTIVALS: ARS NOVA AND KAIROS ITALY THEATER GET

**INTO THE ACTS:** Summertime always means festivals in New York, and two big and exciting ones are coming our way. Currently up and running at **Ars Nova** is the Seventh Annual **ANT Fest** (*All New Talent Festival*), showcasing theater, music, comedy, variety and beyond. The festival, which runs through June 28, features fresh new work from some of the city's most exciting emerging artists, resulting in a virtual cornucopia of offerings, from epic rock opera to sexy shadow puppetry. It's four weeks of all kinds of provocative entertainment—comedy, music and theater, and a fusion of all three that you won't see anywhere else. Vist [www.arsnova.com](http://www.arsnova.com) for a full schedule of shows and events...Meanwhile, **Kairos Italy Theater**, the preeminent Italian theater company in NYC, will present its second *Scena! Italian Theater Festival* in all five boroughs from June 9-24. The event will feature six full productions and four readings. The festival's Opening Night will take place June 9 at the **Arthur Avenue Market** in the Bronx, and the evening will be dedicated to playwright

**Eduardo de Filippo** on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death. For a complete schedule and roster of venues, visit [www.inscenary.com](http://www.inscenary.com).

**RUGANTINO RETURNS TO NEW YORK AT CITY CENTER:** And speaking of Italy, one of that country's most successful musicals of all time, *Rugantino*, comes back to New York direct from Rom, Milan and Florence to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Broadway debut. The show stars Italy's comedian **Enrico Brignano** as Rugantino, with 50 actors, dancers and singers, including **Armando Silverini**, who played Cardinal Severini in the original production. (You read that right: Silverini played Severini.) (The show played the old **Mark Hellinger Theater** for a three-week engagement in February, 1964.) Performances take place for three nights only, June 12, 13 and 14 at City Center. <http://www.rugantinointour.com/en>.

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