Still a spectacle

Critics are mixed, but theatergoers love ‘Miss Saigon’s’ love story – and, of course, that big helicopter

By Jan Sjostrom
Palm Beach Daily News

Miss Saigon seems to be one of those musicals that people either love or loathe. At least judging by critics’ reactions to the Cameron Mackintosh-produced revival that, along with its famous helicopter, will land on Tuesday at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

The New York Times’ Ben Brantley said the 2017 Broadway production “feels about as affecting as a historical drama, albeit a lavishly appointed one.”

Director Laurence Connor’s decision to move the show’s center of gravity away from the show’s promotional materials.

...and, with the help of designer Adrian Varela, delivers that in such a way that one is likely to be in the theater saying that Miss Saigon was so much bigger and better in the 1990s.”

Jesmyn Ward’s novels – including “Sing, Unburied, Sing” and “Salvage the Bones” – beautifully but sorrowfully tell what it is like to be poor and black in the American South of today.

An Evening With Jesmyn Ward
When: Tonight, 7 pm
Where: Festival of the Arts BOCA, Mizner Park East Tent, Boca Raton
Information: festivalboca.org

National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward speaks tonight at Festival of the Arts BOCA.

What if you go
When: Miss Saigon
Where: Tuesday, March 3
Where: Kravis Center, West Palm Beach
For Information: Call 833-1789 or visit kravis.org

Emily Ruddick portrays Kim and Anthony Festa plays Chris in the revival of Miss Saigon that opens Tuesday at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

The 42-year-old Ward, a native of Mississippi and a professor at Tulane University in New Orleans, has lived a life not unlike the South as she continues to write works.

The American Queen ship in Cincinnati.

Why Boomers love river cruising

By Hannah Sampson
The Washington Post

Diana and David Carlson have traveled around the world over the years: Egypt, South Africa, China, Prague, Berlin and more.

“My husband’s getting a little bored with plane trips,” says Diana Carlson, 73. “I just don’t like those long plane trips,” says Carl Carlson.

Diana and David Carlson.

Baby boomers are the group that operators are most keen on reaching. Robertson said his company has historically attracted cruisers 65 and older, but are attracting more of their 50s with amenities on new boats, like yoga rooms, gyms and unique gathering areas.

People that cruise on our boats need free things like time and money,” says John Waggoner, chair- man and CEO of American Queen Steamboat Company.

The Carlsons are exactly like yoga rooms, gyms and unique gathering areas.

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The last helicopter to flee Saigon during the American withdrawal in 1975 leaves behind many desperate Vietnamese, including Miss Saigon’s heroine, Kim.

Mackintosh has dusted off, following his success with revival of ‘The Phantom of the Opera’ last March.

‘It’s taken him a while to revive Miss Saigon, which debuted on Broadway in 1990, because “it requires such a huge international cast of Asian and Western performers, and a total array of visually stunning sets,” he said in the show’s promotional materials.

The Palm Beach Post REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

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See RIVER, E2

The American Queen ship in Cincinnati. [AMERICAN QUEEN STEAMBOAT COMPANY/SURVEY PHOTOS]
Dear Dr. Roach:

I was diagnosed with shingles about two weeks ago after a few days of a painful rash. The doctor recommended acyclovir, gabapentin and anti-inflammatory drugs. But are there any drugs for these that really help? — M.T. of St. Louis

Answer:

Shingles is caused by the chickenpox virus reappearing in a nerve ganglion, a section of the body, as a bursa-like swelling called a "dermatome." In fact, the word "shingles" comes from the Latin word for "stripes," which is on any area of the body. Shingles damages the nerves, and it is usually painful, with a degree of pain that can range from mild to severe. Some people have intense itching in addition to pain.

Treatment with an antiviral drug works if you start it within three days of the rash, or even sooner. Ivermectin (Virtelis) is effective at treating pain if started within 72 hours of the onset of the rash and immediately. Gabapentin is an anti-nervre pain agent that helps build up an effective dose, usually starting at 600 milligrams twice a day for one to two weeks before increasing. For the treatment of acute post-herpetic neuralgia, which can range from mild to severe, Gabapentin and other pain medications is indicated. It’s much more effective at reducing vent shingles than if it is left to its own devices. If M. F. is starting treatment late, vaccine is highly effective as therapy and more effective at reducing or reducing the severity of PHN. Two doses of needle therapy are recommended for adults 50 and over. Dear Dr. Roach:

We are in need of surgery for the removal of one of my parathyroid glands.

A: We didn’t evacuate.

Dear Dr. Roach:

A: The beauty of language and curious about the connections you can make with language — figuring out where someone is from you can take you out of their own experience and put them in another experience. I have been in the same room with some people that who write about are troubled and that the place where I write about is very different. Impossible happens. But I feel the responsibility to tell stories about those people.

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As a woman who writes fiction? I think it would be a huge deal if I win it twice. It didn’t think I would win the National Medal of Honor.