

Weekly Issue - 2007-10-22

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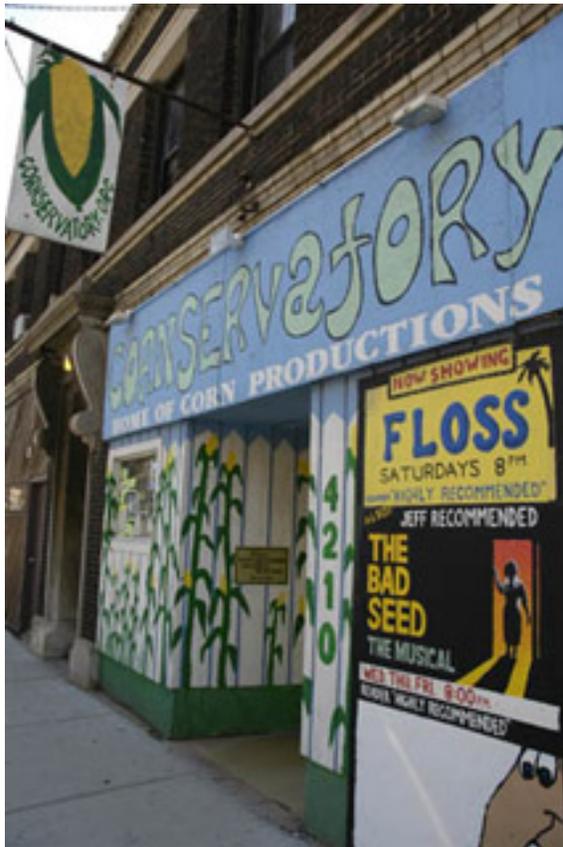
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By Renayle Porter [Print](#)

Contributing Writer



[Eric Davis](#) / The Chronicle

The independent Cornservatory theater, located at 4210 N. Lincoln Ave, is currently showing 'The Bad Seed: The Musical' and tickets are only \$6 on Thursdays.

College students do not have much money to throw around. Entertainment can be expensive. CDs are almost \$20. Movies are about \$10. And going to a restaurant? Might as well eat ramen noodles and call it a night.

Going to the theater is not just for the wealthy.

Chicago is a wonderful city to see great theater, but many of the shows are way out of students' price range. If you are planning to enjoy a musical, prices can run more than \$100.

But no need to worry: There are a few good places to enjoy culture for a bargain.

Before venturing onto the el, catch a play at Columbia's Theater Department. The department has all sorts of shows, including freshman projects (where freshman actors perform short productions) and concert readings (famous musicals are acted out).

For more information, visit <http://www.colum.edu/undergraduate/theater/department.php>

www.colum.edu for a calendar of events.

Off campus, the best bet is catching a performance of the Blue Man Group. Their wacky drumming techniques and catchy music make it a popular spot for college kids. The best part is students do not have to spend their entire paycheck to watch the show.

Take advantage of "Student Rush": Get to the Briar Street Theatre box office, 3133 N. Halsted St., two hours before show time, and students can grab two tickets for \$25 with a school ID. It may seem a little high, but students can save at least \$20 and be entertained for two hours.

Students usually do not think much about listening to classical music, but maybe they should. Check out the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Students can get tickets for as low as \$10, if ordered two weeks in advance—go to the orchestra's website, www.cso.org/seasoncalender. For a performance that day, it is only \$15 with an ID.

There's also a great music package called MusicNOW, consisting of four shows for only \$20, or \$10 for each performance. These concerts provide a break from the rigors of work and school.



[David Maki](#) / The Chronicle

People wait to enter the Briar Street Theatre on May 19, at 3133 N. Halsted, which has been home to the Blue Man Group since 1997. The theatre seats more than 670 people

One of the most interesting deals comes from the Goodman Theatre, located at 170 N. Dearborn St. With "Tix @ 6," you can get tickets half-price at 6 p.m. before each night's show (or before noon for matinee shows).

Sabra Zahn, box office manager for the Goodman Theatre, said students can get an additional discount.

"The student discount is a sub-category of our Tix @ 6 policy," Zahn said. "So for evening performances, at 6 p.m., whatever tickets that are left in the mezzanine are half-price at the window. If you have a valid

student ID, you can purchase one of these discounted tickets for \$12. Bring your student ID as proof of your student-status, and we recommend calling before going to the theater to check on availability.

One of the current shows at the Goodman is *Silk*, a tale of a man who meets a woman in Japan who changes his life. On June 18, *Dollhouse* will premiere. This is a story of woman who must decide whether to stay or go after she discovers something disturbing about her husband and marriage.

For those with quirky tastes, go to the independent Cornservatory at 4210 N. Lincoln Ave. It's current show is called *The Bad Seed: The Musical!!* It involves murder, deception and cross-gender casting.

According to Robert Bouwman, artistic director for Corn Productions, there is a special for six tickets at \$6 each on Thursdays.

The discount was to assure we had a large enough audience on Thursday nights to do a show. We also have \$6 tickets on Wednesday nights as well, Bouwman said.

For many more neighborhood and community theaters around your area, check out www.chicagoplays.com.

It is all about saving yourself a few crumpled up dollars and enriching the senses.

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