

ADVERTISING

AdChoices

MyTimes:
Log on today to get started

The Seattle Times Company

NWjobs | NWautos | NWhomes | NWsource | Free Classifieds | seattletimes.com

The Seattle Times
Winner of Eight Pulitzer Prizes

The Arts



Search

Our network sites seattletimes.com | Advanced

Home Local Nation/World Business/Tech Sports Entertainment Living Travel Opinion Shopping Jobs Autos Homes Rentals Classifieds Buy ads
 Quick links: Traffic | Movies | Restaurants | Today's events | Video | Photos | Interactives | Blogs | Forums | Subscriber Services Your account | Log in | Contact us

SECTION SPONSOR



Originally published Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM

Print

"Ghost Sonata": A haunting exploration of darkness

To say that August Strindberg's "Ghost Sonata" is dark would be much like saying the sun is bright: The play, with its fatalistic view of...

By Leah B. Green
Special to The Seattle Times

Theater review

To say that August Strindberg's "Ghost Sonata" is dark would be much like saying the sun is bright: The play, with its fatalistic view of human nature and phantasmagoric obsession with death and decay, is the very definition of dark. Open Circle Theater and director Andy Justus tackle this heady, poetic dirge with no mercy, painting Strindberg's dark world with a palate that ranges from charcoal to obsidian.

In Strindberg's world, the nuclear family is but a repository for repression, beauty is a disguise for disease and heroism is futile. The characters of "Ghost Sonata" inhabit a surreal purgatory bridging the living and dead, acting out a fugue on human suffering.

The vortex in this whirlpool of misery comes in the form of the Old Man (Aaron Allshouse), a ruthless financier and general malcontent. Not willing to go gentle into that good night, the crippled Old Man sinks his claws into the bright-eyed Student (Andrew Perez), imparting his own education in human suffering as a final worldly deed.

The Student finds himself navigating murky, haunted waters at the mansion of the Colonel (Todd Hull), meeting the Colonel's lovely (if hopeless) daughter (Kenna Ketrick) amongst the unsavory, half-dead houseguests. An awkward dinner party ends in a waterfall of machinations and deceit.

Allshouse owns much of the action as the Old Man, whom he plays as a booming, desperate puppet master. As the Student, Perez successfully marks the replacement of wide-eyed optimism with world-wise bitterness.



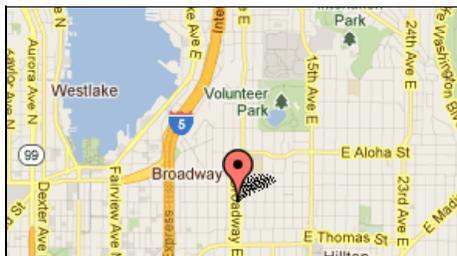
enlarge CLAYTON JOYNER
Kenna Ketrick plays the Colonel's daughter, and Andrew Perez is the Student in "Ghost Sonata."

Related

- The Arts RSS feed
- Guide to holiday entertainment in the Seattle area

Now playing "Ghost Sonata"

By August Strindberg, produced by Open Circle Theater, runs Fridays-Sundays through May 10, All Pilgrim's Church, 500 Broadway E., Seattle; \$10-\$15 (206-382-4250 or www.octheater.com).



More The Arts

- NEW - 7:00 PM
Get a kick out of Cole Porter? Marvin Hamlisch and Seattle Symphony have the program for you
- Spectrum Dance Theater explores Africa in Donald Byrd's 'The Mother of Us All'
- Performers sing for their supper, and to help a friend, at Lake Union Café
- Shelf Talk | Medical Lectures + medical info: at your public library!
- NEW - 7:04 PM
Toy-maker shifts gears into sculpting career

ADVERTISING
JUST RELEASED

\$399: Bahamas 4-Night Beach Getaway w/Air

By TRAVELZOO STAFF



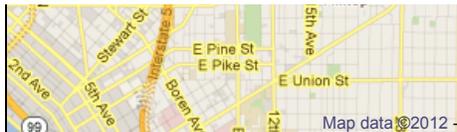
Travelzoo Deal Experts found this beachfront resort in the Bahamas including round trip airfare, 4-nights resort accommodations, \$100 dining credit & more.* Sale ends April 20th.

TRAVELZOO

Video

1962 Laurelhurst Elementary students predict the future
In 1962, The Seattle Times asked a third-grade classroom...

OC1's choice to stage this wordy, poetic classic (first staged 100 years ago) in the sanctuary of Capitol Hill's All Pilgrim's Church could either mitigate or heighten all this gloom, depending on your frame of mind. Lofty ceilings — and live organ and piano scoring — do give an echoed, haunted overtone to the text, though sometimes at the expense of understandable dialogue (Allshouse overcomes the handicaps of the space readily; the rest of the cast less so).



See more mapped stories

Aesthetic gains largely make up for this linguistic loss, however, and several in the audience found themselves at pew's edge by play's end.

Leah B. Green: leahb42@aol.com

Copyright © 2008 The Seattle Times Company

Print Share: Digg Newsvine

More The Arts headlines...

asked a third-grade classroom what the future would hold in the year 2000. Fifty years later, in March of 2012, reporter Jack Broom revisited with some of the same students and had them reflect on their predictions.

- [Tree rescuer Bernie O'Brien](#)
- [Tunnel boring machine breaks ground at Capitol Hill station](#)
- [Puget Sound pilots](#)
- [Glines Canyon dam comes down](#)
- [Uncle of Bremerton boy comments on recovery after school shooting](#)

More videos

ADVERTISING

Marketplace

pet classifieds



Adorable Cockapoo Puppies!

[Post a pet listing](#)

general classifieds

[Garage & estate sales](#)
[Furniture & home furnishings](#)
[Electronics](#)

just listed
[Adorable Cockapoo Puppies!](#)
[Adorable Eskipoo Puppies!](#)
[AKC Registered Teacup Yorkie Puppies !! Boy...](#)
[More listings](#)

Search classifieds

Sell your stuff
[POST A FREE LISTING](#)

Ads by Google

Cremation for \$549

Sacramento's lowest priced cremations and burials
lowestcostcremation.com

Costco Jobs

Find the Right Job For You. Apply For the Position Now!
costco.findtherightjob.com

Treatment Center

Treating mental illness since 1979 Therapy, housing, support.
www.hanbleceya.com

Most read | [Most commented](#) | [Most e-mailed](#)

ADVERTISING

1. Boeing's key Wichita supplier hit hard by tornado
2. How two schools dealt quickly with coaches accused of sexual harassment
3. Mariners win again over Athletics
4. Dating while Mensa smart — how to be bright about it
5. In 1962, third-graders predicted pocket phones, flying cars
6. Writer's world: life behind bars
7. Russian engineers, once turned back, now flowing to Boeing again
8. Sounders' Alex Morgan and Servando Carrasco are a perfect soccer match | Steve Kelley
9. Facebook's got a lot of love for Seattle | Brier Dudley
10. Husky defense seems improved at spring practices

 **Most viewed images** 

Site map

Our network sites seattletimes.com | [Advanced](#)

The Seattle Times Company

- [About the company](#)
- [Employment opportunities](#)
- [Seattle Times store](#)
- [Advertise with us](#)
- [Newspapers in Education](#)

Services

- [Your account / Log in](#)
- [E-mail newsletters](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Feedback and questions](#)
- [Submit listings](#)
- [Send us news tips](#)
- [Historical archive](#)

News

- [Home](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Nation/World](#)
- [Business/Tech](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Living](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Extras](#)
- [Today's news index](#)

Marketplace

- [Jobs](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Shopping](#)
- [Personals](#)
- [Post an ad](#)

Subscriber Services

- [Subscribe](#)
- [e-Edition](#)
- [Pay for your subscription](#)
- [Subscriber rewards](#)
- [Temporary stops](#)

Other editions

- [News by e-mail](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)
- [e-Edition](#)
- [Low-graphic](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Social media](#)

Malware attacks are a growing problem on all Web sites. [Read more](#) about what to do if you see something suspicious.

[Privacy statement](#) | [Terms of service](#)
Copyright © 2011 The Seattle Times Company