

REGIONAL Roundup

Minneapolis/St. Paul

The national tour of *The Producers* roared into the **Historic Orpheum**, with Lewis J. Stadlen and Don Stephenson fully qualified to carry the comedy and sparkling Susan Stroman staging of the Mel Brooks-Thomas Meehan triumph. Among other touring attractions, Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, at the **Ordway**, was both hilarious and informative, particularly as voiced by Starla Benford and Kristen Lee Kelly, while *Arturo Brachetti's* visit to the Ordway en route to Broadway provided about 15 minutes of entertaining quick-change artistry within two hours of overproduction.

A pair of musical offerings brightens local stages. Michael Brindisi directs a superbly insightful *Camelot*, set against the rough landscape of history, at **Chanhassen Dinner Theatres**, with Steve Hendrickson and Norah Long a brilliantly matched Arthur and Guenevere. And singer-

writer Jevetta Steele exposes the raw nerve endings of her marriage to a gay and HIV-positive husband in *Two Queens One Castle* at **Mixed Blood Theatre**. The score by J.D. Steele (Jevetta's brother) and William Hubbard, direction by Thomas W. Jones II, and choreography by Patdro Harris enrich the performance led excitingly by Steele, James Rich, and Dennis Spears. This is a show that could travel.