

Melville's classic "Moby Dick" goes aerial at Alliance

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A very especial version of the classic "Moby Dick" story will blow the edges off the audience's imagination.

As a part of the Coca-Cola Series, an aerial "Moby Dick" opened at the Alliance Theatre stage in Midtown Oct. 12 and will run through Oct. 30.

The new aerial and acrobatic take, based on the 1851 novel by Herman Melville, was co-produced by the Tony Award-winning, Chicago-based Lookingglass Theatre Co. with Arena Stage and South Coast Repertory.

The famous whale tale/battle against nature becomes real with a "bold trapeze and acrobatic work turn this seafaring American classic into a thrilling experiment in aerial storytelling," according to the event news release.

"Moby Dick" is an adaption directed by David Catlin in which audiences are set for an epic adventure with Captain Ahab and his crew in a dreadful quest for the great white whale.

Catlin is a founder member of the company's production ensemble.

Starring as part of the cast are Jamie Abelson as Ishmael, Christopher Donahue as Ahab and Adeoye Mabogunje as Queequeg.

The creative team includes set designer Courtney O'Neill, costume designer Sully Ratke, lighting designer William C. Kirkham, sound designer and composer Rick Sims, aerial/acrobatic choreographer Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi, dialect coach Kathy Logelin and rigging designer Isaac Schoepp.

There are a few special events as part of the production with the purpose of extending the dialogue and engaging the community.

The show's opening night is today.

AfterWords events with cast members will allow the audience to ask them about the issues and ideas presented in the play. These are free for ticket holders and will take place following each Saturday matinee Oct. 20 and 27.

The Lookingglass Theatre last presented "Alice" on the Alliance stage in 2010.