



## It's about time

Time is of the essence in "All the Time in the World," the third — and in many ways the most impressive — full-fledged production of The Flying Griffin Circus at the Actors Gymnasium in Evanston. Tic and Toc (Lawrence E. DiStasi and Chris Williford), two disgruntled runaway clowns in search of a more respectable profession, get their biggest laughs with a frenzied, synchronized time step. Percussionist Rick Kubes (aka Justin Thyme) literally keeps time and provides the occasional rim shot with a free form beat that gives the entire show an air of jazzy improvisation. "All the Time" even provides a "Science Circus" lecture on the nature of time, written by Tony Adler with consultation from Evanston Township High School physics teacher Larry Geni.

All of this is in response to a simple question from young Trudy (14-year-old back-flipping ace Allesandra Stevens). Trudy, whose parents (Katia Anderson Williford and Michael Goldberg) have told her she doesn't have time to waste playing with her imaginary friend Hernando (the amazing Tony Hernandez, above). Trudy has heard too much about time already from her mom and dad. What she wants to know is how she can get more of it. She, Hernando and a friendly bunch of circus performers try to locate a stash before deciding, toward the end, it's not how much time you have that counts — it's what you do with it.

Previous shows by Flying Griffin have been ambitious conceptual affairs, always intriguing but tending to bog down in narrative. "All the Time" is a smart show, but it doesn't belabor the point, relying instead on inventive variations of traditional circus arts for solid entertainment value. Clowning, acrobatics, juggling, wire-walking and trapeze — with a little philosophy thrown in for variety — are delivered with infectious enthusiasm by a likable cast that grows more skilled every year. The two-act, two-hour show, created and deftly staged by director Kerry Catlin, would be more of a dazzler if it clocked in at 90 minutes, but nothing cries out to be thrown out. Just prepare yourself for a little too much of a good thing.

— Bruce Ingram

The Flying Griffin Circus presents "All the Time in the World" through May 18 in The Actors Gymnasium of the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Tickets are \$10. For a good time, call (847) 328-2795.