

Recommended New Review (Theater and Comedy) The Year I Didn't Go to School: A Homemade Circus

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[Joel Mynsberge](#)

The Year I Didn't Go to School: A Homemade Circus

When: Through 3/19: Sat-Sun 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM, Tue-Thu 10 AM; also Sat 3/11 and 3/18, 7 PM; Fri 3/17, 10 AM

Price: \$39, \$28 kids

chicagochildrenstheatre.org

Based on the picture book by illustrator Giselle Potter, this enchanting premiere from Chicago Children's Theatre, adapted by Lookingglass ensemble members Heidi Stillman and Caroline Macon, appeals well beyond its target demographic. The story follows a young family of performers as they journey to Italy for a year of adventure, most of which involves traveling from city to city in their converted truck. In typical CCT fashion, the drama is decidedly tame, but the story unfolds with mature wit, and Samantha Jenkins and Audrey Edwards impress as siblings Giselle and Chloe. Sylvia Hernandez-DiStasi of the Actors Gymnasium mounts fresh aerial stunts, adding a nice circuslike dimension to a production that's as wonderfully playful as its title suggests. —**Matt de la Peña**

- [Ruth Page Center for the Arts](#)