

# The Beginning: 1/29 – 2/3 (Chart and Preview)

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I'll be seeing four shows this weekend, and Jackie will take in another. That's five shows total. What's amazing about that is how last year, when we got started in February, we were lucky to review one or two shows a week. After this year, I will have personally seen more shows than I saw by the end of March 2014. It's exciting to have a docket full of shows to review, and even more so to see what sort of stuff is out there in Chicago this year. What a wonderful theatre town.



I'm looking forward to a lot of things this week, and really for all of the upcoming month. I've recently started taking stage fighting lessons, and used to do a lot of physical acting projects, so a few things that are close to my heart are rapidly approaching. Also, the biggest cattle call audition of the year is coming up next weekend. The Illinois Theatre Association does us all a huge favor and gets together a few hundred actors in one place at one time giving the producers of Chicagoland a chance to see a lot of talent over a two-day span. February is wonderful.

So... What is on my radar? Well... This weekend is [First Folio's](#) "Laughter on the 23rd Floor". Sid Caesar died this year. He was a massive influence on the television medium, and therefore on American comedy. His writing room was full of the best of the best, including names like Neil Simon and Mel Brooks. This is Simon's play about what went on in that room. It is something that I've wanted to see for a long, long time. And First Folio does consistently good work, so it's my fave for the early part of the month.

THEATRE BY NUMBERS TABLE XXXIX.

Die Roll	Play - Company	Venue
01-07	Dividing the Estate - Raven Theatre	Raven Theatre
08-13	Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 - The Other Theatre Company	Chapin Theatre
14-19	Tosca - Lyric Opera	Lyric Opera
20-25	Father Ruffian - City Lit Theater	City Lit Theater
26-32	Waiting for Godot - Court Theatre	Court Theatre
33-38	Short Shakespeare! MacBeth - Chicago Shakespeare Theater	CST's Courtyard Theater
39-44	Rapture, Blister, Burn - Goodman Theatre	Goodman Theatre
45-50	The Selfish Giant - Chicago Children's Theatre	Ruth Page Center for Arts
51-56	Contention: A Love/Hate Story - Annoyance Theatre	Annoyance Theatre
57-62	Keys of the Kingdom - Stage Left	Theater IVI
63-69	Circle-Machine - Orade Theatre	Orade Theatre
70-76	Princess Mary Demands Your Attention - Ballwick Chicago	Victory Gardens Theater - Biograph
77-82	White Guy on the Bus - Northlight Theatre	Northlight Theatre
83-88	Fancy Nancy: The Musical - Emerald City Theatre Company	Apollo Theater
89-94	Fur: Bites - Annoyance Theatre	Annoyance Theatre
95-100	The Apple Family Plays: That Hopey Changey Thing and Sorry - TimeLine Theatre Company	TimeLine Theatre

Grab 2d10 and roll. It's a percentage chart this week!

Mid-February has a circus opening up. I'm a huge fan of physical acting and circus skills. So, I'm looking forward to February 14th. That's right, on Valentine's Day [The Actors Gymnasium](#) will be hosting their circus "Circuscope" in Evanston.

There's a bunch more to come, but we'll look at all that in future installments of this column.

Randomness ensues:

- Stop! Hey, what's that sound?
- The statue of liberty.
- Today's trivia comes from [Random Fact Generator](#): "Ancient Romans at one time used human urine as an ingredient in their toothpaste." — I can tell you that I'm glad I was not alive in Ancient Rome. Although, this past week I did make a beet and chicken soup from an Ancient Roman cookbook. It was almost half wine, and used honey as a sweetener. Not too bad, although, pretty sweet for a main dish. Still, no accounting for the taste of the Romans. Urine? Teeth? Yuck.
- I've been listening to an audiobook of Mark Twain's "Roughing It". I'm about 2/3 of the way through.
- 082676352027
- Blind

- Juguete comico en un acto, en prosa.