

Under The Lights

NEW ON ATLANTA STAGE

THE CAKE

Horizon Theatre
May 17 - June 23
(404) 584-7450 HorizonTheatre.com

When Della, a North Carolina Baker and devout Christian, is asked to bake a wedding cake for her best friend's daughter, she is overjoyed. But that joy is short-lived when she learns that the intended is another bride. Struggling to reconcile her deeply-held belief in "traditional marriage" and the love she has for the woman she helped raise, Della finds herself in strange new territory. Inspired by a story still in the headlines, this marvelously funny new play by Bekah Brunstetter (TV's *This is Us*) is proof that love is the key ingredient in creating common ground.



JUMP

Actors Express
May 29 - June 23
(404) 607-7469 ActorsExpress.com

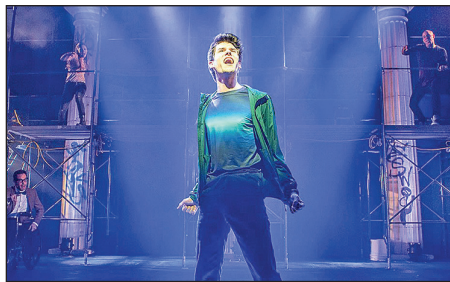
Jump by Charly Evon Simpson is a gorgeous new play about self-discovery, healing and finding beauty in unexpected surprises. It follows Fay, a twentysomething still reeling from the death of her mother who



seeks solace on a nearby bridge looking for a good place to vape, but what she finds is a journey of self-discovery. In the whimsically theatrical world of *Jump*, lights flicker, hearts heal – and you never know what surprises will literally fall from the sky.

THE LIGHTNING THIEF

June 7 - 9 Cobb Energy Centre
(800) 982-2787 Ticketmaster.com



Based on the New York Times best-selling novel by Rick Riordan and featuring a thrilling original rock score, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* is an action-packed theatrical adventure that has been celebrated by audiences and critics alike. The Greek gods are real, and they're ruining Percy Jackson's life. As a son of Poseidon, Percy has newly discovered powers he can't control, monsters on his trail, and is on an epic quest to find Zeus's lightning bolt to prevent a war between the gods. Nominated for 3 Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, *The Lightning Thief* is "mesmerizing" and proves "lightning can strike twice!" (TheaterMania). Music and lyrics are by Rob Rokicki and the play is directed by Stephen Brackett.

HOME THEATER

NEW RELEASES

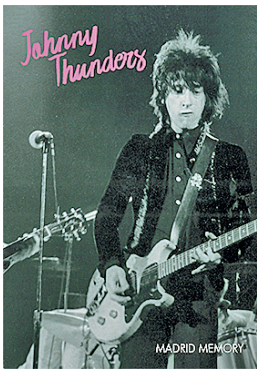
THE LATEST DVD, BLU RAY & VOD RELEASES

By John Moore

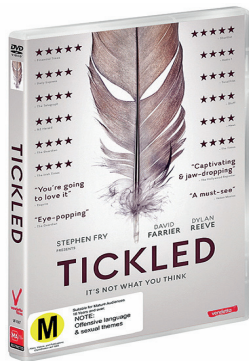
JOHNNY THUNDERS MADRID MEMORY

(Cleopatra/MVD Visual)

In 1984, when punk guitar Godfather Johnny Thunders was in the midst of a reunion tour, he was on the downside of he's popularity and clearly not drug free. But as this live show from the capitol of Spain, originally shown as TV broadcast, proves he could still put on a brilliant set. A little sloppy, as it should be, a lot of awkward between song down time (tuning guitars, combing his hair), but when Thunders and The Heartbreakers, including Jerry Nolan and Sylvain Sylvain, tear through classics like The New York Dolls' "Personality Crisis" or "You Can't Put Your Arms Around a Memory," you realize just how remarkable this band could be. The set comes with a DVD and CD version of the show.



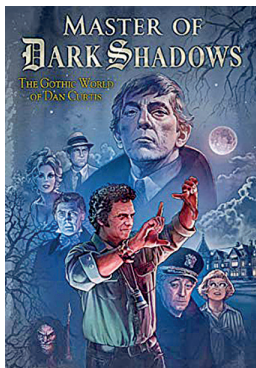
to the U.S. to interview former video subjects who were blackmailed and harassed by organizers, who turn their focus on the filmmakers as a result they face legal threats and a bizarre stream of homophobia. Suspenseful up to the last few minutes, *Tickled* takes to a bizarrely niche corner of the Internet and comes back with a fantastic documentary.



MASTER OF DARK SHADOWS

(MPI Media Group)

It's been more than five decades since Dan Curtis premiered his bizarre Gothic black and white vampire soap opera on network TV in the middle of the day, but its impact is still considerable. From the mediocre Johnny Depp movie to a slew of other films, bands, fashion and pretty most of Tim Burton's career, the influence of *Dark Shadows* is strong. This documentary, narrated by *Deadwood*'s Ian McShane, does a masterful job of diving into the series, its creator, Dan Curtis, and the legacy surrounding both through interviews with everyone from Whoopi Goldberg to *True Blood* creator (and Dan Curtis acolyte) Alan Ball.



TICKLED

(Magnolia Home Entertainment)

You'd hardly expect a documentary about competitive tickling to be so suspenseful. But New Zealand journalist David Farrier and co-director Dylan Reeve have managed to pull it off with this wildly entertaining look into the highly secretive people behind online tickling videos. The duo flies across the world

TV

Station Control

ALL GOOD THINGS COME TO AN END



Game of Thrones

BY BENJAMIN CARR

EVERY SHOW ENDS EVENTUALLY. As two major hits that have defined culture for the past decade are making their way to the exit, new sorts of shows are emerging to change the way we look at television and the world. We have only a matter of weeks to follow the storylines of *Game of Thrones* and watch our favorite characters from *The Big Bang Theory*, but viewers should appreciate these shows for the entertainment they brought and be encouraged at what's to come.

GAME OF THRONES (HBO)

Winter has come to Westeros, as promised, and the armies of the dead are marching upon the Seven Kingdoms. A battle is set to ravage Winterfell, leaving all of our favorite characters devastated and some worse than that. *Game of Thrones* has always thrived on its element of surprise and its bloodthirst for its main characters. Since the death of Ned Stark (Sean Bean) in the first season, no one has been safe. The show's brazenness made it a must-watch shocker, one of the few fantasy series to ever work on television, and the ending - with the final three, super-sized episodes of season eight airing this month - promises to be killer.

Questions remain as the ending approaches, and it stands to reason that showrunners D.B. Weiss and David Benioff will likely answer most of the questions. *Game of Thrones* should not end with a sudden fade-to-black, like *The Sopranos* did. A well-told tale, which the show has always been, should have a satisfying end.

Among the questions to be answered: Who will take the Iron Throne? Will Jon (Kit Harington) and Daenerys (Emilia Clarke) end their affair now that they know they're related? Which of the Starks - if any - will survive? Will Tyrion (Peter Dinklage) and Jaime (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) defeat their sister Cersei (Lena Headey)? Will they destroy the Night King or die trying?

It promises to be epic and unpredictable, though in this world the good guys rarely come away unscathed.

THE BIG BANG THEORY (CBS)

For twelve years, the geeky Pasadena scientists of the giant hit sitcom have remained consistently entertaining, friendly and worth watching. And the characters



have grown and changed. Leonard (Johnny Galecki) and Penny (Kaley Cuoco) started as neighbors, then became lovers and married. The bizarre, anti-social, picky and weird Sheldon (Emmy winner Jim Parsons) even grew past his many, many quirks to gain and accept the love of his girlfriend and partner Amy (Mayim Bialik) in the show's best story arc. And Howard (Simon Helberg) and Raj (Kunal Nayyar) have grown and found love, as well.

Set to end May 16, the finale should be funny and romantic, likely culminating in the season-long arc of Sheldon and Amy's pursuit of a Nobel Prize in Physics. Expect happy endings all around on this show, maybe even some surprise pregnancies, for show creator Chuck Lorre has filled the show with a lot of heart and very little cynicism, unlike his previous hit *Two and a Half Men*, which fizzled out. This one, as the title suggests, should end with a bang.

SPECIAL (Netflix)

Looking at new shows, viewers are likely to embrace shows about sorts of characters they've never seen before. With the recent Hulu sitcom *Shrill* and the eight-episode Netflix gem *Special*, streaming services are giving the spotlight to types of people usually left in the dark.

While *Shrill* centered on *Saturday Night Live* star Aidy Bryant as a plus-sized beauty demanding that the world give her all she's worth, *Special* does something even more remarkable, putting a gay man with cerebral palsy at its center. Ryan O'Connell developed the show from his own memoir and stars in the series.

As the show opens, Ryan, who walks with a limp because of his condition, is hit by a car. A misunderstanding at his new job lead his co-workers to believe that the car accident caused his limp, and he goes along with the ruse. People act differently toward a situation they understand - a car accident - than they do toward a lifelong disability from birth, so Ryan's life becomes better and

more open as he navigates what it might be like not to be dismissed outright for his disability.

The more people see themselves on television and in stories, the more they feel seen. There is something profound and beautiful about *Special*, and it is bracingly honest about sexuality and damn funny. It is one of the year's best.