

Press Highlights



REUNION

The New York Times:

“Reunion could easily have become a precious little artifact, a museum piece in miniature. Instead it became a small packed theater of war, a series of strategic encounters of history, minstrelsy and melodrama; of music as entertainment, catharsis and patriotic gore; of a small band of players and a vast national enterprise. Reunion should be seen across the country.”

“A remarkable musical production. The show is remarkable not only for the perfection of the performances, which ring as true as a note struck on fine crystal, but for its unique historical authenticity. Unlike so many mindless Broadway historical pageants, *Reunion’s* words come from the actual speeches, quotations, military orders, letters and tear-stained diaries of the figures being portrayed. And it’s woven into a powerful whole that leaves no one dry-eyed. **This musical deserves to travel the country the rest of this nation’s days.”**

— *Chicago Tribune*

“A haunting glimpse into history.

Reunion resonates at Ford’s. Jack Kyrleison’s theatrical hybrid is as intriguing as it is unusual.”

— *Washington Post*

“A remarkable look back at the Civil War in all its strength and glory. **Perhaps the best show ever to grace the stage of Ford’s Theatre.**”

— WGMS Radio, Washington

★★★★½★/4 **“Riveting. [The creators] keep the narrative clear and engaging as they draw the audience in with the drama of the Civil War. The 135 years since President Lincoln’s assassination seem to melt away.** The scene is the climax of the performance, and a worthy one.”

— *Washington Times*

★★★★/4 **“Reunion is vastly entertaining, deeply moving, and intellectually fascinating.** A well-deserved cheering, rousing, standing ovation has been greeting *Reunion* at each performance.”

— *Montgomery Journal* (DC)

“Awesome. [*Reunion*] worked on so many levels. **At one point I looked over at a whole crew of high school kids and during the death of Lincoln, they were weeping—including the boys.**”

— Robert Aubrey Davis, *Around Town*, PBS

“*Reunion* is very honest [and] direct about the overarching issues of the war. **It should become a show in residence at Ford’s Theatre.**”

— Joe Barber, *Around Town*, PBS

“A very, very strong piece. I saw it with a bunch of high school kids, most of whom were mesmerized by it.”

— Peter Fay, *Around Town*, PBS

“History comes alive at Ford’s. **A memorable and moving production. It breathes life, drama and a sense of immediacy into events that are familiar to anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of U.S. history. Reunion is an inventive and inspiring theatrical work, and seeing it is an opportunity not to be missed.**”

— *Potomac News*

“Stunning. Even non-Civil War buffs are sure to be captivated. This mighty little production seems twice its size. **Why aren’t there more shows like this one?”**

— *Stage Directions Magazine*

“A red, white and blue-plate special.”

— *Washington City Paper*

“Charming... heartwarming... brought to vivid life. *Reunion* underlines the common futility of all wars and the mess we’re still dealing with from this particular one. **You’ll learn something without feeling lectured to.”**

— *Backstage*, Year-End Critic’s Pick

“Moving... clever... heartbreaking. Plumbs the emotional depths of those wrenchingly turbulent times.”

— *Newsday*

“Run to see *Reunion!*”

— *Show Business*

“Reunion is infinitely smarter than its Broadway counterpart [*The Civil War*].”

— *USA Today*

“A visually and musically stunning piece of theatre. Lets the audience lift the curtain on one of the most compelling dramas in American history. Bravo!”

— *Theatre Reviews Limited*, www.theatrerreviews.com

“Poignant... chilling... a grand production. *Reunion* has contemporary themes and raises issues pertinent to war in any era—the cost of human suffering and the price of freedom in a democratic society. **A remarkable feat of research.**”

The Pentagon, U.S. Department of Defense

“Miraculous. Reunion is intelligent, passionately rendered... a happy surprise.”

— *Aisle Say*, www.aislesay.com

“There are so many thrilling reasons to attend *Reunion* at NYSTI that I will undoubtedly fail, in the space of this column, to mention them all. The show is for history buffs, fans of musical theatre, people who adore drama or comedy or pageantry; in short, it has something for everybody.”

— *Schenectady Daily Gazette*

“Reunion is a special theater piece, and the perfect play for NYSTI and its audience. It should be seen.”

— *Troy Record*