

arts & entertainment news

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NEW YORK

CBS Star Weatherly Says Moonves Situation Is 'Complicated'

Michael Weatherly, who played Anthony DiNozzo on "NCIS," and now stars in his own CBS series, "Bull," says his history with the network makes it difficult to comment on Les Moonves' resignation as chief of CBS Corp. amid sexual misconduct allegations. "Professionally I owe a great part of my career to the decision-making of the higher-ups at the company," he said. "It's a complicated place to be."

— The Associated Press

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Experience a Little Razzle-Dazzle at The Sharon

In a phone interview several weeks before "Chicago" came to the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, Jennifer Fouché, who plays Matron "Mama" Morton, told me that she hopes people leave the show feeling uplifted, entertained and thoughtful.

And honestly, that's exactly how I felt when I stepped out of the theater Monday night after seeing The North American tour of the show.

I mean, how could you not be uplifted and entertained by an exhilarating, sensual, high energy, iconic musical like "Chicago?"

There were multiple times during the performance in which I wanted to get up out of my seat and dance along with



Kristen Fiore

Commentary

the cast as they told the story of Roxie Hart, the young woman who goes to prison after she kills her lover when he says he's leaving her.

That sounds a little dark,

but it's highly entertaining with the addition of expert dancers, strong vocals, alluring costumes and dusty lighting.

Maybe on the surface this seems glamorous, but "Chicago" is indeed a thought-provoking work of theater as well as a captivating one.

As Roxie, played by Dylis Croman, uses her charm to hire the famous criminal lawyer Billy Flynn (Peter Lockyer), and works with

Flynn to deliver sensationalistic stories to the press in an attempt to land a trial and get acquitted, there's an undercurrent of commentary about the press, celebrities and the public who feed them.

In "Chicago," the press is always after the latest and the greatest story, leaving subjects famous one day and overshadowed the next.

Just look at Velma Kelly (Naomi Walley), who was everyone's favorite criminal

before Roxie landed in prison and stole the headlines.

Throughout the show, Roxie, Velma and the other convicts battle it out with iconic numbers like "All that Jazz," "Cell Block Tango," "Roxie" and "Razzle Dazzle."

They tell the stories of how their husbands and lovers "couldn't hold" their arsenic, "ran into" their knives and got "two warning shots" fired into

Please See **NEXT PAGE**

HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?

The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at their four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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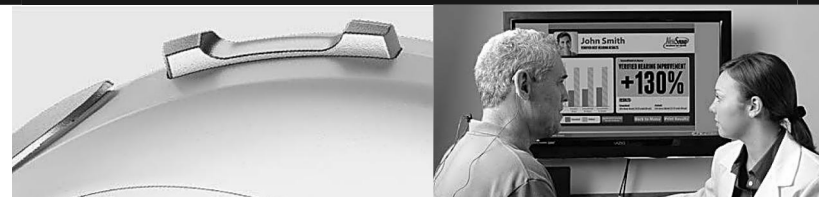


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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



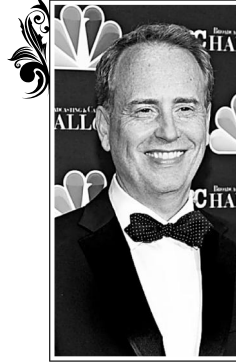
CELINE DION

Las Vegas will soon have to find a way to go on without Celine Dion, who announced that her concert residency will end next year. The Canadian music star confirmed via social media that she will leave Caesars Palace in June 2019.



BLONDIE

Blondie will be playing two nights in Cuba next March as part of a four-day cultural exchange program, and fans can come along. The iconic rock group announced Monday that they will play two concerts during their March 14-18 visit in Havana.



ROBERT GREENBLATT

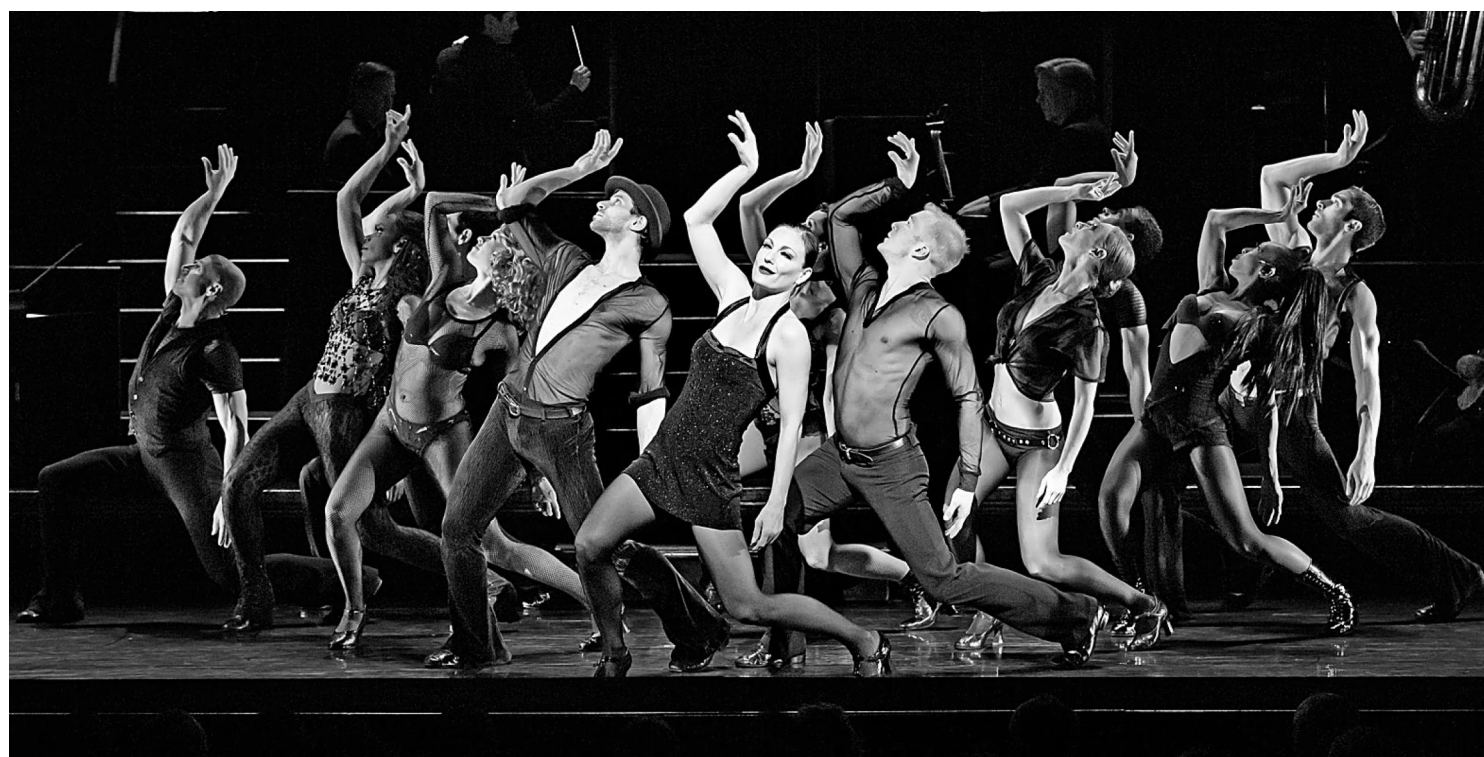
Robert Greenblatt, who has run NBC's entertainment division for nearly eight years and engineered a comeback, said Monday that he is calling it quits and the network named two of his executives to replace him.

NORTH SYRACUSE, N.Y.

Actor Richard Gere, New Wife Eat at Diner In His NY Hometown

Patrons and employees of a diner in the upstate New York village where actor Richard Gere grew up got a surprise over the weekend when he stopped by the restaurant with his new wife and father. The 69-year-old Hollywood star grew up in North Syracuse and graduated from the local high school in 1967. His father, Homer, still lives in the village and joined his son for breakfast.

— The Associated Press



Submitted photo

The musical "Chicago" stopped at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center on Monday night and runs until Wednesday.

Continued from Previous Page

their skulls. The choreography is impeccable and the dancers are swift and in sync. "The staging is very, very well done," said Joe Cerniglia, of the Village of Sunset Pointe. Stonecrest resident Rose Ryan was especially impressed with Walley's performance.

"I just think she's awesome," she said. "Her voice is strong, her dancing — everything about her." And I have to agree. She was so good as Velma that I actually felt sorry for her when Roxie's popularity overshadowed hers. Besides fantastic vocals and dancing, a live orchestra played and was visible during

the entire show, which really added nicely to the effect that only iconic music like the songs in "Chicago" can have on you.

Missed the show? Do not fear. Tickets are still available for the three remaining performances at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. today, and at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Just visit thevillagesentertainment.com or any Villages Box Office location.

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.



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