TABLE OF CONTENTS  
(in order of opening)

THREE VIEWINGS Barrington Stage Company ............................................. 1
ALL UNDER HEAVEN off-Broadway .......................................................... 1
LARAMIE PROJECT TheaterWorks, Hartford ........................................... 1
LOBBY HERO, TheaterWorks, Hartford .................................................... 1
FALSETTOS, Barrington Stage ................................................................. 2
LOBBY HERO, Barrington Stage Company .............................................. 2
THE DAZZLE, TheaterWorks, Hartford ................................................... 3
THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES, Pittsburgh Public Theater ......................... 4
ANNA IN THE TROPICS, Pittsburgh Public Theater .................................. 4
KIMBERLY AKIMBO, TheaterWorks, Hartford ........................................ 4
LOBBY HERO, Pittsburgh Public Theater ................................................ 5
ELLA, Theater Works, Hartford ............................................................... 5
WONDER OF THE WORLD, Barrington Stage Company .................... 6
ELLA, San Diego Repertory Theater ....................................................... 7
TAKE ME OUT, TheaterWorks, Hartford ............................................... 7
URINETOWN, St. Louis Repertory Theater ............................................. 8
ELLA, San Jose repertory Theater ........................................................... 9
DRIVING MISS DAISY, TheaterWorks .................................................. 10
1776, Goodspeed Musicals ..................................................................... 11
MAKE ME A SONG, New World Stage (off-Broadway) ....................... 13
ELLA, Arena Stage .................................................................................. 14
THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED, TheaterWorks ....................................... 14
ELLA, Repertory Theater of St. Louis ...................................................... 15
THREE VIEWINGS Barrington Stage Company
Opening: July 1996

Metroland, James Yarea, July 1996
“As a critic there is no greater challenge or happier endeavor than to write a rave review about a great production of a fantastic play. If I could only see one production this summer, I’d run to see Barrington Stage Company’s production of Three Viewings again.”

WAMC, Karen Shreefter, June 30, 1996
“The Three actors and director Rob Ruggiero hook you and keep you hooked as well as laughing and aching at the surprising and poignant tales of death and loving.”

The Berkshire Eagle, Jeffrey Borak, July 1, 1996
“Lest of all this sounds despairing, it isn’t – certainly not in the hands of director Rob Ruggiero and the extraordinary cast he has assembled.”

“All Under Heaven”

American Reporter Correspondent, Lucy Komisar, November 22, 1998
“Director Rob Ruggiero attentively shifts moods and rhythms as if this were a piece of music.”

LARAMIE PROJECT TheaterWorks, Hartford
Opening: September 2001
**Awards:

Harford Courant, Frank Rizzo, September 10, 2001
“Rob Ruggiero stages the piece with consummate skill, delicacy and daring.”

“When the lights come on at the end of the show, you feel emotionally brightened as you would following a moving memorial service. But you are left intellectually in the dark, still not really knowing why such a terrible thing occurred to that young man in that place.”

LOBBY HERO, TheaterWorks, Hartford
Opening: April 19, 2002

Harford Courant, Malcolm Johnson, April 22, 2002
“Rob Ruggiero, who directed, has drawn a watchable and engaging performance from his offbeat leading man, and from the three others in the cast.

“The perfect match between a playhouse and a playwright, between a cast and a director, is reflected by Rob Ruggiero’s truly pitch-perfect staging of “Lobby Hero.” Here is one of those dream trims when everything goes right.”

FALSETTOS, Barrington Stage
Opening: August 2002

The Berkshire Eagle, Jeffrey Borak, August 13, 2002
“Director Rob Ruggiero has done a credible job in welding all this together. Reflecting the chaos that dominates everyone’s life,”

“Ruggiero has kept his production clean, lean and uncluttered.”

Bay Windows, J. Peter Bergman, August 17, 2002
“Director Rob Ruggiero has fused these characters onto a tapestry that moves in the wind with the quixotic changes that wind can bring even to the heaviest of fabrics.”

Berkshire Record, Harriet F. Bergmann, August 16, 2002
“This is quality theater, excellently directed.”

The News-Times, Chesley Piemmons, August 18, 2002
“Director Rob Ruggiero has coaxed from Barrington Stages’ exemplary cast wonderfully complex, confused, but utterly human characterizations. As they say in the movie trailers: ‘You’ll laugh, you’ll cry.’”

LOBBY HERO, Barrington Stage Company
Opening: July 26, 2003

New England Entertainment Digest,
“Ruggiero’s production of Lobby Hero that was originally produced at Hartford TheaterWorks in the spring of 2002 was hailed by the New York Times as “pitch-perfect staging… one of those dream times when everything goes right.”

Curtain Up
“Director Rob Ruggiero has tapped into all the nuances that make what you may at first appear like a cross between a television cop show and comedy sitcom, but in fact bears a much stronger resemblance to plays like David Mamet’s American Buffalo.”

The Berkshire Eagle, Jeffery Borak, July 29, 2003
“Lobby Hero is as achingly funny as it is deeply affecting and provocative. It raises difficult questions whose answers are not so readily found in the winds blowing through the post-Enron climate."

**WBRK Radio, Ron Lee**
“Lobby Hero” is a compelling and penetrating drama. You won’t see a better play this summer here in the Berkshires.”

**Compass, Macey Levin, July 31, 2003**
“The direction by Rob Ruggiero is smoothly textured. Transitions comedic scenes to flashes of conflict are seamless. The pace of the work is tight and brisk moving the audience smoothly from moment to moment.”

**Pittsfield Gazette, Jonathan Levine, July 31, 2003**
“…director Rob Ruggiero’s staging entertains and engrosses.”

**The Gazette, Bob Couture, July 2003**
“Director Rob Ruggiero simply knows what to do with theatre. He makes “Lobby Hero” a riveting experience, aided by a superb set, complex yet subtle lighting and incredible sound system. Run, don’t walk to Sheffield and see this superior work.”

**Troy Record, Bob Goepfert, July 30, 2003**
“If you don’t like “Lobby Hero” you probably don’t like theater – it’s that good.

“I hesitate to use the word perfect in regards to a theater production, but this comes as close to perfect as I can imagine. The play is excellent, and it is unlikely that you will ever see a better production than the one being offered at Barrington Stage. The acting is superb, the direction sharp, the technical support excellent.”

“I cannot say enough about Rob Ruggiero’s wonderful direction. This is his eight assignments at Barrington Stage, and he’s never provided less than a strong show. This is even better than what we’ve come to expect.”

**THE DAZZLE, TheaterWorks, Hartford**
Opening: November, 2003

**The Sound, Bob and Karen Isaacs, November 26, 2003**
“Under the direction of Rob Ruggiero, The Dazzle sparkles with acting and movement.”

“Sure handed direction of Rob Ruggiero, provides a sparkling theatrical experience that makes you want to stand up and cheer at the conclusion.”
THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES, Pittsburgh Public Theater
Opening: January, 2004

Tribune Review, Alice T. Carter, January 31, 2004
“The latest offering of the Pittsburgh Public Theater is solidly produced, deftly directed…”

“What is most telling in ‘Roses’ is often what’s not said, and nothing so distinguishes director Rob Ruggiero’s scrupulous production as how it avoids emotional exaggeration.”

Unknown from Press Packet
“There’s no denying the integrity and quiet nobility director Rob Ruggiero brings to The Subject Was Roses”

Pittsburgh Pulp, Gordon Spencer, February 12, 2004
“Director Ruggiero has done many things to make this work perfectly. He sets up physical postures, subtly underscoring the distance and closeness of emotional moments. And clearly he has elicited the actors’ telling reaction to each other and to what they are saying. Ruggiero also has fine, supplemental effects from costume and scenic designer.”

ANNA IN THE TROPICS, Pittsburgh Public Theater
Opening: November, 2004

WQED-FM’s Bayer Arts Magazine, Gordon Spencer
“as the play progresses, the superlative cast and director Rob Ruggiero make witnessing Anna in the Tropics an immersion into a completely believable reality.”

“Cruz and director Ruggiero have also found ways, in one telling but well-aced scene, to make relationship between Juan Julian and Conchita evolve rather than burst, as if, like a fine cigar, flames don’t erupt, while pungent smoke fills the air.”

“If you can, observe director Ruggiero’s expert fine tuning and subtle underscoring, such as what Conchita does with a cigar, or how Juan Julian, raised above the workers, seems almost a religious icon.”

“One rare scene stands out especially, clearly Cruz’s creation, a part to be savored, especially given Ruggiero’s staging.”

KIMBERLY AKIMBO, TheaterWorks, Hartford
Opening: January, 2005
The Hartford Courant, Malcolm Johnson, February 1, 2005
“Rob Ruggiero’s direction unfolds the family’s hurt and troubles and the offbeat love story at a sharp, smartly timed pace, amid bursts of laughter.”

Connecticut Life, Mike Lombardi, February 2005
“Director Rob Ruggiero gets the best out of this very talented cast.

“Very simply, Kimberly Akimbo is theater at the top of its form.”

Berkshire Eagle, Jeffrey Borak; February 2005
“Director Rob Ruggiero’s superbly cast and crafted production more than takes the measure of the play.”

The Sound, Bob and Karen Isaacs, February 2005
“This is a play you won’t want to miss.”

Rocky Hill Post, Sally Porterfield; February 11, 2005
“His budding romance with the girl inside her aging body is a surprisingly touching Harold and Maude story that never descends into pathos, largely due to Director Rob Ruggiero’s unfailing taste on such matters.”

LOBBY HERO, Pittsburgh Public Theater
Opening: Around May 26, 2005

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Alice T. Carter, June 4, 2005
“…director Rob Ruggiero and four highly accomplished actors maintain immediacy and intensity throughout.”

“Ruggiero drives the action, keeping the tension high throughout.”

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Christopher Rawson, June 4, 2005
“its excellence owes a great deal to attentive direction by Rob Ruggiero, who let the action unspool at its necessary pace.”

Unknown from Press Packet
“With the firm, and informed direction of Rob Ruggiero and solid work by cast members Peter Bradbury, Morgana Davis and Curtis McClarin, the Public production is smooth from start to finish.”

ELLA, Theater Works, Hartford
Opening: June 24, 2005
Hartford Courant (from CT Now) by Malcom Johnson, June 28, 2005
“Musically, the evening sings with the joy, deep feeling and eloquence of a truly original America idiom at the peak of its powers…”

“Not only are the musical direction and arrangements by Danny Holgate superb, both familiar and fresh, but Ruggiero has drawn finely varied characterizations from the actor-musicians.”

WONDER OF THE WORLD, Barrington Stage Company
Opening: July 2006

Troy Record, Bob Goepfert, July 27, 2006
“Director Rob Ruggiero and his wonderful cast have done a marvelous job converting Lindsay-Abaire’s warped world into a community in which the weird and the improbable are liberating funny.”

Daily Gazette, Paul Lamar
“Rob Ruggiero (to whom all glory and honor) sets the tone from the start – upbeat, waveringly realistic, high-pitched, unself-conscious, and zippy – so the enterprise comes off whole.”

The Berkshire Eagle, Jeffery Borak, June 26, 2005
“Director Rob Ruggiero is up to no good and that’s good news for us all. Ruggiero has been responsible for some of Barrington Stage Company’s worthiest successes over its’ 12 years, “Lobby Hero,” “Three Viewings,” “Valley Song” chief among them.”

“Ruggiero’s enormously appealing, versatile cast breathlessly plays ‘Wonder of the World’”

Curtain Up by Elyse Sommer
“Director Rob Ruggiero sees to it that everything and everyone rises to the play’s full comic potential.”

Times Union, Michael Eck, July 24, 2006
“The show is directed by Rob Ruggiero and, over the course of 11 shows at BSC, he has proven himself comfortable with just about every genre. He acquits himself well with ‘Wonder,’ too.”

The Boston Globe, Louise Kennedy, July 25, 2006
“Just sit back and enjoy the ride. Rob Ruggiero’s smartly paced direction makes that easy, as does the crack comic timing of the cast.”

NewsTimeLive, Chesley Piemmons, July 30, 2006
“Barrington Stage veteran Rob Ruggiero is the director here and he brings his usual savvy perspective to the playwright’s upside-down world.”

Metroland, James Yeara, July 27, 2006
“Director Rob Ruggiero keeps the pace fast, the performances exact and dead on – not sloppy indulgent as could easily happen – and the result is a laugh-filled hit. This is as fun as racing over the Niagara Falls in a barrel and living about it.”

ELLÄ, San Diego Repertory Theater
Opening: September, 2006

City Beat, By Marin Jones Westin
“Ella is several levels beyond most bioplays.”

“Ella invites […] Ella celebrates. […] Ella, bless it, embraces history as a vital tool, savoring Fitzgeralds’ magnificent, orchestral voice and the path to the worldwide fame she never sought – and maybe never really wanted.”

“Ella is an expert Rep season premiere, a well-conceived street-level look at a stellar performer whose single gift to millions shrouded the veil of tears behind it.”

Curtain Calls, Pat Launer; September 22, 2006
“You’ll ooh, you’ll ahhh, you’ll swing, you’ll sway, you’ll lose yourself in the music. And you'll fall in with Ella all over again.”

San Diego Union Tribune, James Herbert, September 18, 2006
“Tell Mr. Ellington there’s no doubt about it: This show called “Ella” has positively got that swing.”

TAKE ME OUT, TheaterWorks, Hartford
Opening: October, 2006

Hartford Courant, Deborah Hornblow: October 23, 2006
“A perfect grand slam for director Rob Ruggiero,”

Connecticut LIFE, Tim Sheridan, November 2006
“I had heard it was good, and after viewing the production at TheaterWorks, I was utterly astonished that it could somehow be condensed into such a small phrase. Richard Greenburg’s wonderful play brought to life by director Rob Ruggiero, is so much more.”

“Take Me Out is a highly entertaining, highly engaging show that I recommend.”

The Observer, Mike Chaiken, October 26, 2006
“Take Me Out is a breathtaking story. And the TheaterWorks production offers stunning performances from the entire cast to help depict that story.”

“Take Me Out is probably one of the best production I’ve seen at TheaterWorks or in Hartford in a good long time.”

Hartford Advocate, Karen Bovard
“I found Take Me Out at TheaterWorks entirely engrossing.”

“Director Rob Ruggiero has done this piece good service with brisk pacing. He’s clearly coached the four actors named above to commit so fully to their characters that they push through the stereotypes on which they are based to human terrain on the other side.”

Metroline, Tony Schillaci and Don Church; Vol. 33, Issue 21
“Run; don’t walk to TheaterWorks to see this play.”

“Tony award-winning playwright Richard Greenberg’s play is in the creative hands of Rob Ruggiero’s expert direction.”

“There are eleven cast members on stage and Rob is the twelfth – an unseen yet vital presence who brings out the best in each and every actor.”

“Take Me Out is witty, ballsy and laugh-out-loud funny.”

URINETOWN, St. Louis Repertory Theater
Opening: November, 2006
** Awards: Kevin Kline Award, Best Director of A Musical

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Judy Newmark, November 20, 2006
“Repertory Theater of St. Louis has just opened its sharpest production of the season: Urinetown: The Musical.”

“If you love theater, you won’t want to miss this brainy, stylish show. You won’t want to miss this even if you only like theater. This is the Rep at its best.”

“He [Ruggiero] achieves the same kind of fizzy theatrical excitement with Urinetown.”

Riverfront Times, Dennis Brown, November 23, 2006
“the brilliantly staged and performed Repertory Theater of St. Louis production of Urinetown, the Musical is extravagantly entertaining.”

- 8 -
“director Rob Ruggiero has managed to finesse an evening that captures the tale’s mocking tone while still conveying a sense of utter conviction.”

“This one will be entertaining the annals of St. Louis theater lore.

KFUO-FM, Steve Allen, November 19, 2006
“Rob Ruggieros directs all of this nonsense with a real sense of the core of humor in the play.”

“The opening night crowd simply leapt to their feet at curtain call after a night of nothing but laughter ringing through the Grandel Square Theatre.”

“It’s nothing short of stupendous.”

KDHX-FM, Kelly Levins-Moore, November 19, 2006
“The Repertory Theater of St. Louis’s production of Urinetown is smart, catchy, and thoroughly engaging.”

“Rob Ruggiero’s direction of the show is careful and well-thought, with quick pacing and careful attention paid to the comic intricacies of the book.”

KMOX-AM, Harry Hamm, November 19, 2006
“This makes two hits in a rows for Ruggiero.”

The Vital Voice, Jim Campbell, November 20, 2006
“Urinetown is simply an outstanding production.”

Ladue News, Mark Bretz, December 2, 2006
“Kudos to director Rob Ruggiero for the expert discipline he brings to the pacing and process.”

ELLA, San Jose repertory Theater
Opening: July 2007

Piedmont Post, Robert Lee Hall, July 11, 2007
“Ella Fitzgerald is, of course, about as worthy a subject as I can think of, so I’m glad to report that, on that good/bad scale, Ella is… but let Cole Porter put it into words: “…s’wonderful, s;marvelous, s’what I long to see.””

“In my own words I’d call it a “don’t miss” show.”

“It’s a simple device, but as Hatcher scripts it, with honesty tempered by tact, it works well, offering a portrait not just of an artist but of a woman who has her share of failures along with triumphs.”
“Cannily directed by Rob Ruggiero, Ella plays out on a simple but elegant set by Michael Schweikardt, expertly lit by John Lasiter, with costumes by Alejo Vietti.”

**DRIVING MISS DAISY**, TheaterWorks
Opening: July 2007

“Under the direction of Rob Ruggiero, the theater’s associate artistic director, and with inspired assistance from the design team, Ms. Prinz and Mr. Johnson steadily and skillfully flesh out the play’s deceptively simple central narrative.”

*The Hartford Courant*
“Rob Ruggiero’s well-pace, well-acted production earned a rousing and extended standing ovation from a crowd that had, only moments before, been sniffling and wiping away tears.”

*New Haven Register*
“Prinz’s Daisy, under Rob Ruggiero’s inconspicuously sensitive direction, is spontaneous and uncompromising, and never demeans the play by indicating emotion or milking its pathos.”

*Stage: Car Talk*
Director Rob Ruggiero has delivered a brilliantly acted production in the small space that is TheaterWorks – one of the best things I’ve seen there.” I was sitting in the midst of a bunch of fairly hardened, blasé, experienced theater goers, and we were all pretty speechless at the end.”

*The Sound*
“Somehow, you know, from the moment the stage lights come up that TheaterWorks’ current production of *Driving Miss Daisy* is one of those rare and magical times when everything: writing, direction, acting, and staging are all about to meld together- if not flawlessly, then pretty darn close.”

“It is these perfectly tuned, heartrending moments that make this such a delightful production.”

*NewsTimeLIVE.com*
“The production under the affectionate direction of Rob Ruggiero is as gem-like as the script.”

*WMNR: Fine Arts Radio*
“Under the welcoming hand of Rob Ruggiero’s sensitive direction, Rosemary Prinz exhibits true grit as Daisy Werthen, a stubborn-as-stone widow; Mel Johnson, Jr., is sweeter, not as tough or austere as Morgan Freeman was, as
Hoke Coleburn, the black man hired to drive her after she has crashed her car; with the help of John Leonard Thompson, as Boolie.”

**Take A Sentimental Journey with Miss Daisy by: Bonnie Goldberg**

“Associate Artistic Director Rob Ruggiero is back at the helm, after a devastating illness, to direct this theatrical classic with white glove finesse.”

**Talkin’ Broadway**

“Director Rob Ruggiero applies detail while utilizing adroit performances.”

“Ruggiero’s direction allows for Uhry’s words and vision to actualize. The director is fortunate to work with a trio of estimable actors. What he does is to facilitate and coax so that Prinz, Johnson and Thompson are able to actualize their gifts. As a result, *Driving Miss Daisy*, a period piece, continues to inspire.”

**Milford Weekly/Stratford Bard**

“Director Rob Ruggiero smoothly achieves languid pace of southern gentility throughout though the transitions between the play several scenes could be picked up without harming the overtone.”

**Two On the Aisle – WNHU**

“This is an absolutely delicious production.”

**Northend Agent’s Newspaper**

“Through the direction of Rob Ruggiero, TheaterWork’s Artistic Associate Director, this one act play highlighted subtleties that brought to light more than the central subject. In a broader sense, in my opinion, this story is a tribute to the timeless themes of the human need for love.”

**The Connecticut Critics Circle – Theater CT Magazine**

“What director Rob Ruggiero has done is reminded audiences that *Driving Miss Daisy* is not just about a racial issue. Ruggiero, who also serves as associate artistic director, seems to have de-emphasized the race card and shined a bright spotlight on caring and loving of a son for his mother as well as a genuine interest in the welfare of the hired help.”

**1776**, Goodspeed Musicals

Opening: September 2007

**Wall Street Journal**

“Rob Ruggiero, the director, has done an exceptional job of pointing up the drama in a musical whose outcome is well known to anyone who stayed awake during the first week of American History 101. Thanks to his smart staging, the
large, mostly male cast ends up looming larger than the sum of its somewhat inconsistent parts.”

NY Times
“Rob Ruggiero’s bracing, perfectly pitched production at the Goodspeed Opera House, in East Haddam, turns the theater’s small, Victorian-era stage into a terrific asset, concentrating the action and the emotions within Michael Schweikardt’s Wedgwood-blue backdrop of federal columns, cornices and pediments. These delegates to the Continental Congress are in one another’s faces, and the heat in the room isn’t just the result of Philadelphia’s summer temperatures or Alejo Vietti’s sumptuous velvet frock coats and frilly ascots. Even though the conservatives will dance a refined minuet (nicely choreographed by Ralph D. Perkins) and proclaim themselves “Cool, Cool, Considerate Men,” the issues on the table are making everyone sweat.”

CT Post
“Rob Ruggiero directs a rousing production of the beloved “1776”! Here is history which goes down like a spoonful of sugar.”

“Alejo Vietti’s costumes and Michael Schweikardt’s set are letter-perfect.”

“Ruggiero does a remarkable job in maneuvering his sizeable cast across the pocket stage and keeping those movements believable.”

In the Spot Light
“Every stage element is there and is perfect; i.e. set design, costumes, hairdos, lighting. In spite of having the burden of directing such a large cast, Rob Ruggiero makes each character an individual.”

Variety
“Goodspeed's handsome staging of the musical is more than just a tableau vivant”

“A fine ensemble and terrific production values do justice to Peter Stone's savvy book and Sherman Edward's glorious score.”

“Rob Ruggiero takes a smart course and focuses on the relationships onstage. He gives the sizable cast -- Goodspeed's largest ever at 26 -- a series of beautifully rendered human moments.”

Hartford Courant
“Goodspeed Opera House's revival of the musical "1776" is at once a wonderful entertainment and a terrific history lesson.”
MAKE ME A SONG, New World Stage (off-Broadway)
Opening: November 2007

Associated Press
“Director Rob Ruggiero (a frequent Finn collaborator) has arranged all the songs to contrast beautifully with each other. This is true for the suite and for the show itself as well — there is an effortless pattern and flow to the production at off-Broadway's New World Stages thanks to Ruggiero's polished direction.”

“The revue is just as honest, moving and eloquent as the man himself.”

TheaterMania.com
“It's a carefully constructed, stylishly directed (by Rob Ruggiero), and exceptionally well-cast production that gives Finn's rich material its due.”

“"Passover" is ultimately heartbreaking. "You're Even Better Than You Think You Are" is wonderfully affirming. "I Went Fishing With My Dad" couldn't be more poignant. The list goes on. And so should this wonderful show.”

**TheaterMania’s Top 10 from 2007**
“William Finn is the best songwriter in the culture when it comes to plumbing personal emotions for universal implications. His supreme gift for elating lyrics and unexpected melody was showcased by a smartly-cast foursome thoughtfully and vigorously directed by Rob Ruggiero.”

Variety
“In a word, it's Finntastic.”

“Equal parts hope, joy, spring and laughter is what we get in this uproarious and moving soundscape of the world as seen by William Finn.”

NY DAILY NEWS
“That William Finn writes beautiful melodies and brainy lyrics comes through in the revue "Make Me a Song," which opened Monday night at New World Stages.”

"Nonetheless, Finn fans and newcomers will find plenty to like in this pleasant 90-minute show conceived and directed by Rob Ruggiero."

NY POST
"FINN GIVES US SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT"

"But despite its modesty, this is an evening dedicated musical theater fans will not want to miss."
**Talkin’ Broadway**

“The new Finn revue at New World Stages, Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn, soars whenever it releases Finn’s inner romantic into its eternal home, the theater.”

“It speaks so baldly to the hopes and fears at the core of our existence, that it seems to alight not on the ear, the mind, or the heart, but in the soul itself. Finn’s talent for presenting life and death as elements of the human equation that are as inviolable as love makes his voice one of the most daring and honest to be found in the theatre today.”

**Time Out New York**

“Witty, wistful, jaunty, sad, neurotic and brave all at once: Such are the contradictory impulses that animate Finn’s work. He contains multitudes and, in his own offbeat way, he’s one of the musical-theater greats.”

**ELLA, Arena Stage**

Opening: January, 2008

**Pentagram, Dennis Ryan, January 11, 2008**

“The play hits all the right notes when its start is belting out some of the best standards in the American songbook.”

**The Washington Informer, Jarrin Davis, January 10, 2008**

“It’s rare to go to the theater and be part of a show where everything works. This is one of those rare productions. First is the smokin’-hot four piece band playing masterful interpretations of Ella’s classic songs in musical arrangements by Danny Holgate. Equally effective are the unbelievable scenic designs by Michael Schweikardt and lighting designs by John Laister. Both envelope you in the jazz area of yesterday in director Rob Ruggiero’s beautifully directed production that sparkles from beginning to end.”

**Washington Afro-American, Edith Bilups, January 26, 2008**

“You’ll leave humming to the music that captured an era and which made a shy girl from Virginia an internationally known star.”

**THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED, TheaterWorks**

Opening: February 1, 2008

**Journal Inquirer, Kory Loucks: February 7, 2008**

“The TheaterWorks production, directed by Rob Ruggiero, was funny, witty, entertaining, and smart.”
Hartford Courant, Deborah Hornblow, February 5, 2008
“Ruggiero’s production drew a standing ovation on opening night, and a lot of laughs.”

Variety, Frank Rizzo, February 4, 2008
“Helmer Rob Ruggiero tempers the pace and quips by bringing heart to a play that skirts superficiality. He makes the show not just a glib exercise in Hollywood hypocrisy and Gotham ennui but almost a human comedy, too.”

New Haven Register, E. Kyle Minor
“Under Rob Ruggiero’s streamlined and sensitive direction, all the performers bring the best plays’ humor and poignancy to fruition.”

The Source, Amy J. Barry, March 6, 2008
“Directed with well-aced energy by the theater’s artistic director Rob Ruggiero…”

The Observer, Kristin Santa Maria, February 14, 2008
“Rob Ruggiero did a great job of directing the actors. I believed each one of the relationships featured in the play.”

“TheaterWorks did a great job of keeping the satirical nature of the play and adding a human dimension to it.”

Milford Weekly, Tom Holehan, February 14, 2008
“Director Rob Ruggiero seems perfectly in tune with both his actors and the material pacing the saucy script seamlessly.

ELLA, Repertory Theater of St. Louis
Opening: March 21, 2008

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Judy Newmark, March 23, 2008
“Stylish and sophisticated, "Ella" brings the 2007-08 season at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis to a close with plenty of sparkle.”

Talkin’ Boradway, Robert Boyd
“In short, the Rep's production of Ella is a delightful tribute to a truly memorable singer whose innovative and brilliant artistry has thrilled and inspired audiences around the world.”

KFUO-FM, Steve Allen
“Ella is masterfully directed by Mr. Ruggiero.”
“This is truly a memorable evening for those who have worshiped the first lady of song over the years and is an insightful look into her sometimes rocky life. Ella is an evening of celebration and inspiration and not to be missed.”

KMOX-AM, Harry Hamm
“at the end of the evening, you'll leave The Rep in love with Ella as well as her music. This exposition of the life and voice of one of the greatest pop and jazz singers of all time is an exceptional evening that will leave you standing and applauding in awe and appreciation.”

KDHX-FM Chris Gibson
“The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis ends their season with a bang and brings a musical legend to life with their sizzling presentation of Ella. Backed by a swinging ensemble, Tina Fabrique delivers a performance worthy of the first lady of song herself. Filled with memorable standards, this is a must see event for any fan of the Great American Songbook.”

“Rob Ruggiero's direction brings his concept to fruition, with careful thought given to the presentation of each moment, musically and dramatically”