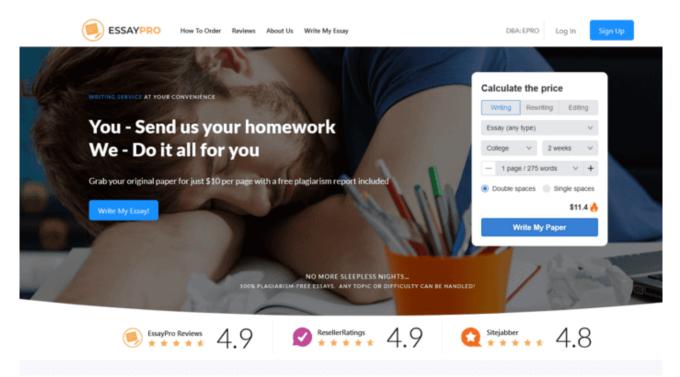
Review of the on stage performance Of The Lion King



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Drama

In 1999, a spectacle hit the west-end after it roared through Broadway in the USA, and a few weeks ago I went to see it at the Lyceum Theatre. Disney's award winning animation, The Lion King, was brought to life in musical fashion by director Julie Taymor. It was seen with its story line intact, but as a completely original and sophisticated piece of theatrical art. With over 40 actors, singers and dancers giving a stunning performance of puppetry, song, dance, fairytale and even humour.

The story concerns young lion prince Simba, whose birth has pushed his evil uncle (Scar) back to second in line to the throne. Scar plots to kill both Simba and his father, King Mufasa, and steel the throne for himself. Simba survives and is left to believe his father's death was his fault, and so leaves the kingdom. He comes across a warthog and meercat called Pumbaa and Timon who look after him. Throughout the play this duo add many humorous moments that stick with the audience. He grows fully and is left with the decision whether to return to his rapidly crumbling kingdom at the hands of Scar. He faces Scar in a great and emotional finale.

There is a very enchanting performance from Josette Bushell-Mingo as Rafiki, who takes on the wise old baboon of the play and acts as the plays narrator. Also, a convincing part by Cornell John as Mufasa and the young Simba is played impressively by a naturally cheek...

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