

## 'War Horse' play adaptation is worth checking out

Written by Alaina L. Lewis

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Based on the feature film and novel of the same name, the Tony Award winning play "War Horse," came to Minneapolis this past week at the Orpheum Theater.

The sold out crowd that was eager to indulge in the play's new age animatronics, a captivating message, and an award-winning piece that has been taking the world by storm. The story is centered on a boy's love for a horse that transcends past the struggle of war and the distance between worlds.

"War Horse" follows, Joey, a beautiful brown steed, from the comforts of an English farm where his owner, a young boy, raises him to tend the family fields. Eventually, financial issues lead Joey to the frontline of World War I, and the young boy who is not yet old enough to enlist embarks on a heroic journey to find Joey and bring him back him.

I thought the play was very well put together, but if you're a fan of the other visual medium for this adapted prize, you might struggle with the transition from film to stage. For me, a lot of the piece felt like a barebones palette compared to the beautiful cinematography of the film, however, the play still stands on its own as a clever interpretation of the book.

In lieu of bringing a real horse to the stage, Joey is brought to life by three men in an animatronics suit. Even the fence surrounding Joey's stable, is made up of two men holding a pieces of a gate; and the birds flying overhead are also manned by stage actors. Their mannerisms are brilliantly executed. Eventually you're so intrigued with the story that you don't notice the animals aren't real, or the actors standing there.

"War Horse" is currently on the touring circuit and will leave Minneapolis on Sunday June 23. If you have time, come check it out. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.hennepintheatretroupe.org](http://www.hennepintheatretroupe.org)