



Soho Rep is the best theater in NYC (official)

Posted in [Theater](#) by David Cote on July 27th, 2007



Yesterday, Campbell Robertson of *The New York Times* [reported](#) that [Soho Rep](#) is moving to an Off Broadway contract for its new season. That's certainly news—although don't worry about any crazy ticket increases. Every seat at every Sunday performance will be 99 cents. Yes, that's less than a buck. And during the first week of a show's run, tickets will be \$20. Thereafter, seats will be \$25—except, of course, on 99-cent Sunday. Still, if the downtown venue is stepping up its game and seeking new subscribers—the ones who are sick and tired of the conservative programming at most other Off Broadway institutions—it could be a very interesting development. However, let's deal with the other news, which is the astoundingly kick-ass 2007–08 season that artistic director Sarah Benson has lined up. Starting in the fall we'll have John Jesurun's version of *Philoktetes*, which I've heard people rave about for years; a six-hour experimental epic by [Nature Theater of Oklahoma](#) called *No Dice*; and finally, in spring '08, we will finally, at long, long last, get to see the New York premiere of [Sarah Kane](#)'s shattering tragedy of war and morality, *Blasted*. It was one of local theater's greatest shames that, ever since this controversial masterpiece opened in the [U.K.](#) in 1995, no venue had the nerve to stage it, even after 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq, when its intensely brutal vision became more urgent than ever. Kane committed suicide in 1999 at the age of 28, which only added to the dangerous allure of her work. But no artistic director has had the stones to touch this play, and the Kane estate guards her work very carefully. In a way you can't blame ADs at our theater. If, say, Lincoln Center Theater or Second Stage Theatre dared stage this vicious, terrifying dystopian tragedy, they'd lose subscribers in droves. Sarah Benson herself will be directing it. She'll have her work cut out for her: The nightmarish script calls for explosions, eyeball gouging, rape, surreal changes in season and full-frontal human cannibalization. Basically an average workday at *TONY*. As for the other productions, Jesurun is directing his own script, and *No Dice* will be jointly directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper. No word on casting for any of these shows, but talk among yourselves in the comments below if you have dream teams in mind. With the possible exception of [New York Theatre Workshop](#)'s current season, this is the most exciting programming I've heard about in a long time. Makes us a little more hopeful about the future.