



StarTribune Final weekend; ZOOMING.(FREETIME)

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Djola Branner's "The House That Crack Built" is a winning surprise. Creatively directed by Heidi Hunter Batz and acted with deftness by an irresistible company - including Gavin Lawrence as a smooth-to-trembling doctor - the hourlong production soars on verve, skill and adrenaline. It also manages to confront and involve audiences in its music-infused drug-demonstration-turned-rehab-meeting. Only two shows left. (7:30 p.m. today-Sat., Pillsbury House Theatre, 3501 Chicago Av. S., Mpls. \$10-\$15. 612-825-0459.)

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Long-time Guthrie Theater actor Charles Janasz is stepping into the role of crotchety, greed-chained Scrooge in this year's edition of "A Christmas Carol." Directed again by Sari Ketter, it features Kelsey Grammer (with pre-recorded narration), Sally Wingert, T. Mychael Rambo and Stephen Yoakam. There's also talk of a special cameo by longtime theater patron Sally Pillsbury. (7:30 p.m. today-Sat. Running thru Dec. 30, Guthrie Theater, Vineland Place, Mpls. \$16-\$44. 612-377-2224.)

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