

The New York Times

Sunday, February 14, 2010

Arts&LEISURE

THE WEEK AHEAD

FEB. 14—FEB. 20

Theater

Ben Brantley

As times to wax nostalgic over, the 1950s and '60s have never been high on most gay men's lists. (Come to think of it, this would hold true for pretty much all periods before the disco era, unless you count the good old days of Alexander the Great.) This week theatergoers have the chance to stroll thorny memory lanes and consider just how uncomfortable it was to be a homosexual four and five decades ago. Opening on Tuesday, at the Lucille Lortel Theater in the West Village, is **"THE PRIDE,"** Alexi Kaye Campbell's time-traveling study of gay men in 1958 and 2008, first staged (to hosannas and assorted awards) at the Royal Court Theater in London. The New York incarnation has a promisingly starry cast — including the rising movie actors Hugh Dancy and Ben Whishaw — and a director to match in Joe Mantello ("Wicked," "Love! Valour! Compassion!")
Through March 20, 121 Christopher Street, (212) 279-4300, mcctheater.org; \$15 to \$95.

Meanwhile, up in Chelsea (where else?), the Transport Group is previewing its **"BOYS IN THE BAND,"** Mart Crowley's landmark comic drama of homosexuality and its discontents from 1967. Though the play was revived Off Broadway as recently as 1996, Jack Cummings III's production has the novelty of being "site-specific," which in this case means being staged in a penthouse apartment. Expect the martinis to come with more vitriol than vermouth. *In previews; opens next Sunday; 37 West 26th Street, (212) 352-3101, transportgroup.org; \$38 to \$45.*