

Star Tribune

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Theater: "The Firebugs"

"The Firebugs," by Max Frisch, 8 p.m. today-Sat., 7 p.m. Sun., Guthrie Theater, Hennepin and Lyndale Aves. S., Mpls. \$10-\$40. 377-2224.

David Gordon's wacky, circuslike staging of Max Frisch's "The Firebugs" is one of the more inventive, original productions to grace the Guthrie Theater in some time. Gordon, who made his artistic reputation as a New York choreographer, has recently been trying his hand at stage direction, and he has certainly risen to the challenge in "Firebugs," Frisch's satiric parable about the propensity of people to compromise with evil. Much of the fun and relevance comes from Gordon's use of a troop of firefighters as a Greeklike chorus that continually warns Biedermann, the middle-class protagonist played by Charles Janasz (center), of the dangers of hosting three strangers in his attic.

— Peter Vaughan