

Chess Match No. 5 Pull Quotes

Leiter, Samuel L. "Review – Chess Match No. 5." *Theatre's Leiter Side*. March 20, 2017.

"Both Bond and Lauren are exemplary. They make their fuzzy characters pleasant company, providing them with charm and naturalness, giving even Cage's most airy-fairy concepts a sense of clarity and conviction."

Levitt, Hayley. "Chess Match No. 5." *TheaterMania*. March 20, 2017.

"Jocelyn Clarke takes Cage's own documented words and shapes them into a conversation between an anonymous 'He' (presumably representing Cage) and 'She' (a longtime friend of the composer), played with impressive self-assurance by Will Bond and Ellen Lauren."

"...a nice side effect of this idea that life and art are one and the same is that sound designer Darron L. West's work does not go unappreciated. Noises that are typically lost in the background of a story come to the forefront of our consciousness, as does Brian H. Scott's lighting design, which features a variety of multicolored hanging bulbs. While shifting in conjunction with the play's many randomized sound effects, they effectively reinforce the play's self-referential statement, 'Theater is the use of both eyes and ears.'"

Roberts, David. "Off-Broadway Review: 'Chess Match No. 5' at Abingdon Theatre Company's June Havoc Theatre." *Theatre Reviews Limited*. March 20, 2017.

"There is nothing like watching theatre directed by SITI Company's Anne Bogart. Her attention to detail is unparalleled and her signature staging that includes crisp and precise movement (choreography by the Company's Barney O'Hanlon) is transformative."

"remarkable production"

"...a kaleidoscope of the iconic composer and theorist's words."

"...delicious set designed by James Schuette."

"Brian H Scott's lighting design shines with impeccable discrimination on objects and actors."

“...a bristling invitation to reimagine the importance of sound and silence and how those concepts differ.”

“With smiles and precise gestures here, a few dances there, and with scintillating words everywhere, the remarkable talents of Will Bond and Ellen Lauren open the door to the possibility for members of the audience to rehearse their own conversations and create their own entrances and exits and the possibility of discovering places they choose not to leave.”

Shaw, Helen. “Chess Match No. 5.” *Time Out New York*. March 20, 2017

Will Bond is “a precise and dapper performer.”

“...these two can seem like gorgeous, oiled machines.”

Rifkin, Mark. “Chess Match No. 5.” *This Week In New York*. March 21, 2017.

“...cleverly choreographed...”

“...it all becomes rather playful.”

“Darron L West’s superb sound design is like a character unto itself.”

Will Bond has “fluid, sometimes tongue-in-cheek delivery.”

Anne Bogart “directs with a sly smile.”

“...outstanding sound and lighting.”

Wrappe, Megan. “Review: ‘Chess Match No. 5’ – A Tribute to Composer John Cage.” *Zeal NYC*. March 22, 2017

“a well put together show.”

“The two play off of each other well, making their easy chemistry quite evident.”

“Ms. Bogart knows what she’s doing when it comes to directing.”

“Bogart does not hide the fact that cage’s musings have made an impact on her personally as an artist, and she succeeds in giving his work a voice in a proper stage presentation.”

Echeverria, Margret. "Chess Match No. 5." *Front Row Center*. March 21, 2017.

"In *Chess Match No. 5*, a production conceived by Bogart and adapted from the words of John Cage by Jocelyn Clarke we are let into that world I have imagined – where the real artists live."

"We are let into that world... where the real artists live."

"I was thoroughly entertained."

"a total goofy pleasure."

"free and whimsical choreography."

"This is a show that must be grasped with an open hand. If you try to make too much of it, hold on to any one moment too long, or 'figure it all out,' you won't like it. If you can let it just flow over you and just notice how some of the mind bending makes you feel, you will definitely enjoy yourself."

"The sound design in this show is a complex masterpiece by Darron L West who has us believe that we are hearing the universe as Cage heard it."

"[Ellen Lauren] brings light and a little party to the game. I also found her to be very sexy."

"By the end of the show, I had the tears in my eyes that come with relief; the kind of relief you feel when you drop a tea cup in your friend's house and, rather than scolding you, your friend says, 'what a beautiful sound that made as it shattered on the floor; I'm so glad you are here.'"

Barbour, David. "Chess Match No. 5." *Lighting and Sound America*. March 22, 2017.

"Barney O'Hanlon... comes up with a lovely modified Fred-and-Ginger routine for the stars to perform."

"*Chess Match No. 5* presents Cage as impish, fun-loving, and always accessible."

"Bond, who looks a bit like Cage but is armed with a disarming smile, is unfailingly affable, and Lauren imbues everything she does with an understated screwball humor. Together, they make for a kind of Nick and Nora Charles of twentieth-century Modernism."

Block, Michael. "Review: Pawn Down." *Theater in the Now*. March 24, 2017.

"Adventurous to say the least."

“The sound design from Darron L West is out of this world.”

Wade Steketee, Martha. “Chess Match No. 5 – Movement, Light, Sound, A Board Game.” *Theater Pizzazz*. March 27, 2017.

“experiential onslaught”

“this delightful romp.”

“Choreographer Barney O’Hanlon designed movement with a sense of play and gentle ease.”

“Scene and costume design by James Schuette is appropriately spare, save for the essential mounted dial telephone upstage that serves as an insistent third character at one point of the show, experienced almost as an unattended crying infant.”

“The character He delivers a delectable fragment of Cage reflections.”

Vincentelli, Elisabeth. “In ‘Chess Match No. 5,’ the Words of John Cage, Deconstructed.” *New York Times*. March 28, 2017.

“a cerebral peek into the artist’s worldview.”

“Will Bond displays the impish smile of an eccentric scientist.”

“Ellen Lauren’s deceptively detached inflections recall Laurie Anderson’s.”

“Darron L West did the precise sound design.”

“One suspects that Ms. Bogart is just as interested in making us think about what theater means and what we want from it as she is in the composer. The first precept may be to go with an open mind – and ears.”

Thompson, Zac. “Chess Match No. 5.” *Village Voice*. March 28, 2017.

“Never boring, Cage’s often surprising insights on music and everyday life bear the imprint of an artist listening closely to the world around him.”

Capra, Steve. “Chess Match No. 5.” *New York Theatre*. March 30, 2017.

“What involves us is the astonishing moment-to-moment life of the two actors, Will Bond and Ellen Lauren.”

“Ms. Bogart’s direction is impeccable.”

“Art theory has never been so delicious.”

“*Chess Match No. 5* is a terrific explication of musical and philosophical ideas, a marvelous tribute to Mr. Cage.”