

[Emerald Mystiek](#)

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via Facebook

Yesterday the kids and I saw [The Ragbag Shoes](#) by [Pollyanna Theatre Company](#) and we really liked it. It's intended for kids ages 4-10, but my 11-year-old son and I enjoyed it just as much as the 8-year-old daughter. It's an original play that explores multiple fairy tales where shoes are an important feature, and I especially loved learning fairy tales that I don't already know. And the whole thing was infused with nice themes about the choices we make and the magical abilities we all have.

The five actors all did great work in multiple roles, and I absolutely loved the creative minimal sets and props. And there was a little bit of fun puppetry! The talking blackbird might've been my favorite character, and the shoes themselves come to life! Other standouts for me were the stinky king who never bathed, Princess Floracita who saved her missing brother, the old woman by the side of the road with mysterious messages for the soldier, the twelve dancing princesses portrayed by two women and a big piece of wood, and their father the king something like Ed Wynn. My son really liked the story of Omutugwa, a Kenyan version of Cinderella. Daughter really liked the character from the main story that tied it all together, 10-year-old Iyana, who was the recipient of the the titular Ragbag Shoes.

I also have to comment on how much I liked the program. This was my first time seeing a Pollyanna show, so I'm guessing they always create their programs in this manner, but it was wonderful. It was full of information! In addition to the expected information about the cast and crew, there were pre-show and post-show questions that caretakers could discuss with their kids, some discussion of what fairy tales are, and tidbits of info about the countries where the fairy tales in the play originated from. I often feel like most theatres/shows miss an opportunity to educate and/or further extend the experience into the program. I love to see someone taking advantage of the possibility of programs!

They have a show today at 2 pm, morning shows Mon, Thurs, and Fri, and one more 2pm show next Saturday. It's at the Rollins Theatre at the Long Center.