

<http://bvtnews.com/entertainment/welcome-back-to-our-new-column-theater-beat.html>

BVT news

February 28, 2017

Welcome back to our new column: Theater Beat

Upriver at the Bucks County Playhouse, Buddy, the Buddy Holly musical, will return May 27-June 17. Then it gets packed in a truck and sent down the highway, to play June 24-July 9 at the Kimmel Center.

BCP's Buddy makes splendid use of the stage turntable. But this massive thing - 25 feet in diameter, four tracks, 84 cast aluminum wheels - wasn't always at the playhouse. It was built by the famed designer Norman Bel Geddes for the 1937 production of Irwin Shaw's *Siege* at Broadway's Longacre Theatre, a stinky white elephant of a show that lasted only six performances.

How and when did that turntable arrive 61 miles southeast, in New Hope (some time before the playhouse opened in 1939)? It's a mystery. Stuck beneath the stage, covered over, the poor thing lay all but unused for a long time. BCP technical director Tom Watson and facilities manager Peter Maloney refurbished and refit the turntable, now computer-operated, in 2015.

When Buddy goes down I-95 to the Kimmel's Perelman Center, will it get the same treatment? Ooooh, yes: A 75-foot-diameter turntable stage is one of the Perelman's celebrated virtues.