

## FAMILY FARE

Laurel Graeber

### Wizards of Winter

When it comes to magicians, most children are just wild about Harry. But they may want to investigate some of his adult competition tomorrow. Tim and Robin Balster are not Hogwarts graduates, and they tend to work with doves rather than owls. Still, these married magicians know how to cast a spell.

Theaterworks/USA is presenting the Balsters' "Season's Greetings," which includes much familiar children's magic, like making colors appear on black-and-white illustrations. What raises this show above most such productions is an array of lightning-fast transformations and lots of audience participation.

Mr. Balster levitates Ms. Balster, dressed like a Christmas elf, and even appears to shrink her body. He pops a balloon to reveal a dove and makes a menorah candle disappear and reappear. He causes an entire cage of doves to vanish and reduces a fan's shoe to a charred lump. (Don't worry, moms; he restores it.)

Magic shows depend on surprises, and last Sunday one appeared to be unscripted: Waldo, a duck, flapped offstage and into the audience. Perhaps he was worried that he might end up as Christmas dinner.

*"Season's Greetings," tomorrow at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium at Equitable Tower, 787 Seventh Avenue, at 52nd Street, Manhattan, (212) 627-7373. Tickets: \$25; \$18 when buying 10 throughout the season.*

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