

# The New York Times

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## Charles Isherwood's Best Theater of 2014

The older you get, the quicker Top 10 time seems to arrive. The past year in theater seemed more than usually breathless, but the rewards were many, sometimes seemingly constant. An exciting new play one month, a revitalized Broadway musical the next, and always what astonishes me most: the breadth and depth of the acting talent to be seen on New York stages. All my choices, and many shows that didn't make the final cut, left me immensely gratified by the dedication and sometimes necessary fearlessness of New York's theater actors.



**‘Straight White Men’** Is there anything Young Jean Lee cannot do? This remarkably versatile and inquisitive playwright probed the man-cave minds of the title species in her [thoughtful new work](#), her first foray into straightforward naturalism. Although the title might suggest a scalpel-sharp dissection of the privileged elite, Ms. Lee’s play was more than an anatomy of a class: it was a compassionate study of one man’s uneasy search for meaning, and his discovery that, in the world of straight white men, failure may be acceptable, but being content with a disappointed life is most definitely not.