

Pies, pizza and potatoes: Real food takes a bow onstage

By MARK KENNEDY Associated Press

NEW YORK — There's a new version of the frightful musical "Sweeney Todd" playing in downtown Manhattan that's undeniably meatier than most.

Street Theatre planning to see the show about a homicidal barber whose victims are ground up into pies are being offered the chance to munch on real meat pies before the curtain goes up.

"It adds something very fun, pre-show," says producer Rachel Edwards, who

dreamed up the mash-up, which also happens to have real mashed potatoes. "It just gives people a different way in and a different way to experience something that they might not have thought of before."

The meat pies — created by a former White House executive

pastry chef — are just part of a new wave of real food invading the world of theater, upping the realism as well as the immersive experience.

Pierogi are tossed to patrons at the Broadway musical "Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812" and real pizza slices are eaten

onstage at "A Bronx Tale." Off-Broadway, the cast members of "Everybody" munch on veggie burgers, actors in "Man From Nebraska" nibble on french fries, ham and oatmeal, and a risotto is attempted at the play "Linda."

More pies — this time, sweet dessert ones — appear

in the hit Broadway musical "Waitress," where delicious odors waft through the theater thanks to a convection oven in the lobby. Pie consultant Stacy Donnelly creates some 15 real pies a week for the actors to use onstage and up to 1,600 mason jar pies are sold at a concession stand.



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Advertisement for Clatsop Animal Assistance featuring photos of various dogs and cats with names like Dewey, Gary, Bella, Maia, Mick, Lola, and Oreo & Cookie.