

LIFE & STYLE

The Journal News | MONDAY, June 29, 2009

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'Perfect' lives up to its name

WBT revue is indeed about something — and it's something big

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It would be easy to dismiss "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" — now in an excellent production at Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford — as a sweet little confection.

After all, it has been called "Seinfeld set to music," and wasn't "Seinfeld" a show about nothing?

But this charming revue is about something big, modern life, which often disguises itself as a lot of little things: first dates, first kisses, wedding vows, raising kids and growing old together.

Director Charles Repole sees to every detail, assembling a uniformly excellent cast — Jonathan Rayson, Courtney Balan, Noel Molinelli and Travis Taber, who



John Vecchiolla

The cast of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" at Westchester Broadway Theatre includes, clockwise from top left, Noel Molinelli, Jonathan Rayson, Travis Taber and Courtney Balan.

THEATER REVIEW

stepped in for an ailing Frank Vlastnik at the press opening. (Brian Cooper has since taken over for Vlastnik.)

Each player gets his or her moment to shine and makes the most of it: Taber as a guy dragged to a chick flick, Molinelli in another awful bridesmaid's dress, Rayson as an old man marveling at his love for his wife and Balan as a divorcée dipping her toe into the world of video dating.

Balan's second-act turn, in "The Very First Dating Video of Rose Ritz," is nothing short of spectacular, a monologue that is as honest and bare and affecting as you're likely to find on any stage.

It comes as a revelation, sneaking up on us after an evening of laughs.

Balan, a Broadway veteran ("Cry Baby") is a prodigious talent, as sure of her craft as her character is unsure of herself.

SEE 'PERFECT,' 2D

'PERFECT': Play could change your outlook

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She takes her time, finds just the right meter, isn't afraid of silence — and nails it.

"Rose Ritz" comes on the heels of another standout moment in an evening chock-full of them: Rayson's "Shouldn't I Be Less in Love with You?" a tender, romantic and impeccably delivered song.

There are plenty of laughs, as in "On the Highway of Love," when the cast, in rolling office chairs, takes a car ride from hell.

Even when they're not in office chairs, they glide from one scene to the next on Steve Loftus' impressive set — a sleek, streamlined creation with panels that slide open to send set pieces out on wagons. Aided by Andrew Gmoser's efficient and effective lighting plot, scenes shift on a dime, as the cast of four dons one remarkable Donald Birely costume after another.

The two-person pit, musical director John Daniels on piano and Sara Molina on vio-

If you go

What: "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"

Where: Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford.

When: Through Aug. 2.

Tickets: \$60-\$73 plus tax, depending on the performance.

Call: 914-592-2222.

Web: broadwaytheatre.com.

35 years, 1 deal

WBT marks its 35th anniversary — "Kiss Me, Kate" opened the theater on July 9, 1974 — with a sweet ticket deal. From Thursday through July 10, anyone paying full price (\$73) for one ticket to "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" can get a second ticket for the original "Kiss Me, Kate" price of \$10.95. That price includes a served meal and the show.

lin, plays from a perch above the action. The simple



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Travis Taber, Jonathan Rayson, Courtney Balan and Noel Molinelli perform "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

arrangements put the lyrics front and center.

Every aspect, every department fits together flawlessly.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" ran 12 years at the Westside Theatre, making it Off-Broadway's longest-running musical.

Joe DiPietro's book and lyrics are clever and spot-on. Jimmy Roberts' musical

styles are eclectic — from country to soft-shoe to tango.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" will not change your life, but it might change how you look at it.

You might find yourself reaching for your spouse's hand as you make your way to the car.

You'll love it. It's perfect. Now call.