
BLANKITY-BLANK

Reviewed by Samantha McChesney-Franks,
Associate Theatre Critic
John Garcia's The Column

"WHO'S THE GOOD GUY, WHO'S THE BAD GUY...WHO CARES?"

With "Blankity-Blank", Scott Warrender has written a show that demonstrates, once again, his love for the obscure and tongue-in-cheek, having successfully spoofed Wagner's Ring Cycle, Cinderella and Texas Chainsaw Massacre. His lyrics are fast-paced, sometimes witty and always well constructed.

Director K. Doug Miller has brought together a company of actors who, for the most part, seem to feel perfectly at home with Warrender's latest creation.

The cast includes Arianna Movassagh, Gregory Lush, Christopher Deaton, Julie Johnson and Marisa Diotalevi all of whom have strong voices and great comedic skills.

Aided by a collage of creative, if not completely comedic contributions from the audience (many of whom are struggling artists themselves at the performance I attended), the cast delivered a very entertaining evening. Before the show, the actors moved among the audience members gleaning answers to questions like; "what would a wild animal eat" or "what would surround a person that was offering protection." They can give any answer they like; I mean the wilder, the better.

These answers are unabashedly inserted into the scripted dialogue from notes the actors carry throughout the show. They deliver these comical nuggets from these notes as they dispose them by throwing it on the floor. Of course, it often falls to the actor to turn a "sow's ear" into a comic silk purse or vice versa if it's funnier, because funny is, after all, the operative word for this show.

Paul Arnold does what he always does to light this challenging space...the best he can. Actors were sometimes in the dark and scene changes sometimes were not properly lit. It should be noted though that this critic reviewed the production at a final preview.

With the exception of the tattered, homeless look in the second act, Bruce Coleman's costume design was nothing to write home about, but then again if all they remember is your shoes, then either you're doing something wrong or the shoes were FABULOUS!

Of musical director Vonda Bowling, I can only say this. I don't know which was more entertaining...the show, or watching Vonda laughing at the show. It boggles the mind how she can miss not a single note on the piano while doubled over in fits of laughter.

If what you're looking for in a theater piece is plot, a life altering message or grim reality, then you're honestly at the wrong show here with BLANKITY-BLANK. But if you want to laugh, groan or even being made to blush a little, then make your reservation to see this hilarious musical at Theatre Three's downstairs space, Theatre, Too!

In fact, reserve seats to see several performances, because you will want to see just how much they're really making up. Thanks to all the audience participation with their offerings of different words and answers, each performance is different, resulting in new laughs galore!

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BLANKITY-BLANK-Musical by Scott Warrender (Regional Premiere)
Onstage in Theatre Too at Theatre Three
Through June 13, 2010

Week 1 Performances:

Friday May 28 at 8:00pm, Saturday May 29 at 8:00pm, Sunday
May 30 at 2:30pm.

Regular Performances: Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday/Saturday
at 8:00pm, and Matinees on Sundays at 2:30pm.

Ticket Prices: \$25 & \$30. Tixss may be purchased by calling
T3's box office at 214-871-3300, option #1. Tixs may be
requested online at www.theatre3dallas.com