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Blankity-Blank

by Doug Dodasovich
EDGE Contributor
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To call composer/playwright Scott Warrender's new show, **Blankity-Blank**, a musical is a bit of a stretch. While many of the songs are quite good, there are only 9 songs in this two-act play, which seems thrift on music. Yet to call Blankity-Blank a gimmick is to minimize its infectious hilarity. But, however you want to describe Warrender's gimmicky musical what you don't want to do is miss it.

The stunt is that Warrender has constructed a barebones skeletal plot with hundreds of blanks filled with new answers supplied by a new audience each night. The game cast is given the collated pile of answers and at the appropriate moment speak their lines filling in the blanks by reading the first answer from their pile.

The results deliver lines like "the embarrassing incident with the can opener" or "your panties match your eyes" or "I trained your monkey, cowboy, for 5 years" or "He plays me like Tiger Woods plays remorseful". It's random. It's clever. It's hysterical. And I loved it. So did the audience on opening night. The audience fed off the quick-witted

spontaneity of the actors. There was so much crackling energy in Theatre 3's downstairs space that even some of the actors had trouble keeping a straight face. Delicious fun.

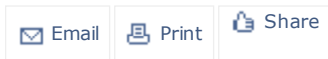
Merri Brewer, Christopher J. Deaton, Marisa Diotalkevi, Julie Johnson, Gregory Lush and Arianna Movassagh make up the eccentric ensemble. All comedic hams, they earn every laugh and deserve as much praise as possible as does Director K. Doug Miller for keeping the pace light, silly and evolving.

And yet, there's music too. It's so easy to get caught up in the gadgetry of the play that the songs sometimes seem intrusive. Yet Warrender has composed some delightful and engaging songs. Julie Johnson nails "Theater by the Sea" (as her character prepares for her umpteenth revival of Sally Bowles) and Marisa Diotalkevi's rendition of "If I could Sing I'd Do A Number Here" is as sublime as the name implies. Musical Director Vonda Bowling serves all the musical catering on keyboards.

Silly, slapdash, hilarious and full-out entertaining get off your blankety-blank and go see Blankity-Blank.

Blankity-Blank continues through June 13, 2010 at Theatre Three in their downstairs stage, Theatre Too, 2800 Routh Street, Suite 168, Dallas, TX 75201. For more information visit www.theatre3dallas.com

Doug Dodasovich is a playful free lance writer and designer who is passionate about live theater, dance and film. He and his husband, Mark enjoy reading, traveling, friends and family of choice and their 3 miniature dachshunds, Roxie, Velma and Seymour.



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