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Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical

by Cheryl Anderson
EDGE Contributor
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I took my 60-year old mother to see **Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical**, and I must say I'm proud of my choice of date. Although my mother's aged so gracefully that I've never held much fear about mid-life, her explosive laughter was the best artistic barometer this humble critic could ask for. Exquisitely, almost painfully, Theatre Three's production expertly regales and exploits that most dreaded of ages. For those of you who suffer from CSR, or Can't Remember Shit, (a condition I developed sophomore year of high school and remains untreated), or for anyone who feels like selective Turrets may account for their interactions with anyone in the customer service industry - "Mid Life! The Crisis Musical" is worth every cent of the ticket price.



This is not your mother's polite "going through the Big Change," talk, with classic lines like, "Life is misery, the kids are doing ecstasy..." and "My uterus will turn into a pumpkin!" Warning: this play, like many high-blood pressure medications, may cause stigmata in men with comb-overs. There are just so many things about mid-life to make fun of. And the cast of "Mid-Life!" does it exceptionally well. In too-bright, pudge-enhancing, off-white, kaki-shorts-with-socks combinations that should be worn only by the most unabashedly unfashionable, the middle-aged actors looks like they could've stepped right off the golf course or PTA meeting and into the theatre. But that doesn't diminish their talent. Directed by Terry Dobson, who's worked with Theatre Three for over 20 years, "Mid-Life!" showcases some of the best actors Dallas has to offer. B.J. Cleveland, Jenny Thurman, Doug Jackson, Randy Pearlman, Amy Mills, and Sally Soldo bring exceptional vocal and comedic skill to this production. Ranging in experience from Robert Altman Films to the Dallas Shakespeare Festival, this cast is not one to miss.

Terry Dobson also plays a significant roll not only as the director, but as the musical source himself. His piano playing goes from tongue-in-cheek sobriety to a riot of sound with a twist of his actors' expression. It took me a minute to realize: Dobson is the only source of sound besides the actor's voices. In this intimate setting, such a performance could suffer seriously without the right talent. But Theatre Three doesn't scrimp on that with "Mid-Life!" And that's exactly what's needed, because at the end of the day, mid-life crises aren't just about the horrors of getting old. It's about becoming who you really wanted to be, way back when you had dreams. Remember those? A great gift for Mother's Day, whether you bring your mother along or not, "Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical" will remind you that you've already turned into her, so just throw in the towel.

*Runs May 2-June 8, 2008 at
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