



Courtesy Echo Theatre

Ian Sinclair and Morgan Justiss star in Echo Theatre's production of "Last Train to Nibroc."

Basking in Love's Eternal Glow

Posted February 12, 2009, 3:00 a.m. by Alexandra Bonifield

Searching for a unique, memorable way to celebrate St. Valentine's with a sweetheart? Go see [Echo Theatre's](#) production of Arlene Hutton's nostalgia romance, the award-winning "The Nibroc Trilogy" at the [Bath House Cultural Center](#).

Billed as "five actors, three plays, one love story," it's a three-play cycle tracing the initial courting ritual and subsequent married life of a charming, deeply in love, small-town Kentucky couple from the 1940s into the post-war era.

The first part of the trilogy, "Last Train to Nibroc," opened Feb. 5 to an enthralled, near-capacity crowd. Morgan Justiss and Ian Sinclair, as the couple May and Raleigh, trade gentle barbs and polite revelation with thorough sincerity and a natural conversational style.

Well-matched and engaging, they imbue Hutton's lyrical script with a veracity that is both a tribute to America's "greatest generation" and very accessible to today's audience.

Co-directors Ellen Locy and Pam Myers-Morgan capitalized on both actors' appealing looks, talents, and delightful stage chemistry. In elegant balance, they create an aura of romantic intimacy while keeping the play fairly clipping along.

The play's three scenes are set upon a railroad car seat, a park bench, and a porch swing. The focus stays on character interaction while clearly revealing time's passage and setting change, a simple but effective design motif.

Nibroc soars. It beguiles. It buries sweet memories in a real gentleman's proffered hankie and restores faith in the values of character and integrity, in the promise of true love. ■

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"The Nibroc Trilogy" runs through Feb. 28 and includes "Last Train to Nibroc," "See Rock City," (opening Feb. 12) and "Gulf View Drive" (opening Feb. 19). Advanced reservations are strongly recommended.

For a complete schedule, visit the Echo Theatre [Web site](#).

Purchase a Festival Pass to pick and choose three performance dates to attend, or take in all three plays in one day on one of the two "Nibroc Festival" dates, Feb. 21 and 28.

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