

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

'Now. Here. This.' Offers Sustenance For the Soul



THEATER REVIEW

By Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun

I saw this year's Summer Song Cycle show, "Now. Here. This." at the Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol Wednesday night, and it was the most I've laughed in a while.

The show is packed with witty lines like "4.57 billion years ago, a tiny speck appears out in space. In the black sits a quietly spinning sphere, where something whack is about to take place."

But the musical isn't only funny, it's also profound. As four friends meet up for a day at a museum of natural history, they draw parallels between the minuscule details of their lives to the science of the Universe.

Woman 1, played by Whitney Morse, is a worker bee who schedules her life to the brim.

Man 1, played by Nick Shoda, relates himself to camouflage, because he spent a large portion of his life changing himself into something that seemed socially acceptable.

Woman 2, played by Chantelle Cognevich, was desperate for attention as a child and is compared to a bird.

And then there's Man 2, played by David Paul Rowan, who is compared to a turtle because he's afraid to come out of his own metaphorical shell.

"I like the way they present the realities of their lives," said Barbara Griffith, of the Village Poinciana. "The perception of their lives versus the realities of how they feel about it is really amazing in the way it is presented."

Morse, Cognevich and Rowan are experienced performers at The Studio; Morse was last seen in "A



Submitted photo

"Now. Here. This." runs until Saturday at the Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol. The performance offers plenty of laughs — but it's also profound.

Doll's House" and Rowan and Cognevich were in "It Shoulda Been You."

"Now. Here. This." is Shoda's debut at The Studio Theatre.

All four of them are amazing vocalists, and their harmony was so good that it gave me chills — no joke.

Sam Hickerson, of the Village of Belle Aire, said he and Kim Patalak, of Silver

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HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?

The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at their four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spanish Springs:
970 Del Mar Drive

Lake Sumter Landing: 1070
Canal Street

Brownwood: 2726
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Savannah Center:
1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd.

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Lake, have enjoyed all of the shows that Morse, Rowan and Cognevich were in, but Shoda also impressed them.

"The new guy is good," Hickerson said. "He really stands out. I really enjoy him."

As for the show itself, Hickerson was a fan of the subtle comedy.

The show didn't have a set, but the projections and lighting that accompanied each song made up for it.

The projections show evolutionary charts, pictures of turtles, bees and birds and even bits of the movie about cosmology that the friends watched together.

I chatted a bit with Village of Poinciana residents Barbara and Walter Griffith during the show's intermission, and they commented on how all of the shows at The Studio Theatre demonstrate much talent and passion, and I have to agree.

The actors were professional and amazing, and

the behind-the-scenes staff and musicians outdid themselves, too.

The lines and lyrics were hysterical, the characters were lovable and relatable and the music was catchy. What stuck out to me most was the show's message of the importance of being present in the moment.

As they say near the end: "Now is the only time. Here is the only place. This is who I want to be."

The show only runs through Saturday, with a show at 7 p.m. tonight and shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, so grab your tickets and get in there while you still can.

"Now. Here. This." provides sustenance for the mind and soul.

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