

Steadstyle Chicago

September 2010 Theatre Review by Nicholas Ryan Lamb

Red Herring



Critical
Evaluation



Predictable dialogue, recognizable plots, stereotypical whodunit voices, and characters that have been seen throughout the ages...and this is exactly what I wanted. The "cheesiness" factor was through the roof and I loved it. The cast along with director, John Gawlik, produce a rip roaring show that left my sides split. "Red Herring" is your basic plot of murder, romance, interchanged identities, and...well...herring.

This production has many amazing values from the constant videos during set changes, a short film creatively shot to grab the audience, and music that underscored methodically. I was in awe of the use of the projector (which I will be stealing in my own shows) and how location could be changed quickly. Important side note, kudos to the crew for the fluidity and mutual trust in keeping the shifts tight.

Peter DeFaria (Andrei and many others) distinctly made every character come to life, and not easy characters. His timing was perfect and will remain as a wonderful performance in my head in days to come. The rest of the cast is exquisitely superb. When I direct I always use the "tether ball" analogy in comedy. In this you have the pole which stays grounded and then you have the ball attached to it swinging freely. This equation equals scenes that allow audiences to grasp on to what they need to and react to what is seen.

This show was full of the tethering. It switched between characters nicely due to the fact that they knew the importance of listening. My only complaint, though it was opening night, is the cast needs to hold for laughs. This show was written for this and there were a few missed "comedic buttons". Thank you to this wonderful theatre for providing an amazing venue with amazing people to produce amazing works of art. I talked about the show non-stop on the hour and a half drive home and still am thinking about it.

The show is worth the drive and can be seen at the Pheasant Run Resort, located at 4052 E. Main Street, St. Charles Il., until October 24, 2010. For tickets call 630-584-6342 or go to www.ticketmaster.com. For more information on this show, please visit the Theatre In Chicago [Red Herring](#) page.

About Nicholas Ryan Lamb

Nicholas Lamb is a graduate from Illinois State Universities acting program with a secondary focus on directing. He is also a graduate from SAK Universities improv school. As an accomplished actor he has performed in dozens of shows with his most notable credits including the title role in "Scrooge" the musical,



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Adan in Milcha Sanchez Scott's "Roosters" and Nicely Nicely Johnson in "Guys and Dolls". He was last seen on stage in "A Leading Woman" and as Matt in "The Fantasticks". Some of his most known directing works are "Barefoot in the Park", "The Secret Garden", and the well received "Birdbath".

Not only has he worked numerous with acting and directing but his training also includes the technical areas of theatre as well as film work. He has directed in both Illinois and Florida for over 7 years. He most recently directed the children's shows of "Charlotte's Web", "Aladdin and the Magic Lamp", and "Pinocchio". His palette for theatre is that of a culinary connoisseur. Theatre is something to go in with an open mind, which is how he approaches each show he critiques.



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