

The Prodigal

You'll Never Be the Same . . .

Premiere Performance Reviews



1. Leo-Weekly

Review of the Prodigal Performance - June 27 2010

By Lonnie Jones

Premier Review of the theatrical play "The Prodigal" June 27, 2010 Louisville, KY - the Kentucky Center for the Arts, Whitney Hall by Lonnie Jones of Bridge & Mill Music I didn't really know what to expect when I drove down to Louisville from Indianapolis to see this musical play called "The Prodigal." But I do know this. I wasn't expecting what I saw, and I especially didn't anticipate what I heard. From the opening number "Daddy" sung by a very young and talented Elon Perry-Stiner, I was captivated by the emotion and intensity of the music in this very touching, heartfelt, and much of the time very funny story of a young man's agonizing struggle with his gender identity, and the ostracizing of his family by several churches because of who he was. Interspersed among a very well written and crafted stage play was a smorgasbord of one great song after another steeped in the traditions of black gospel sounds, blues, soul and jazz with a little added pop and disco to round it out. Each song took me on my own inward journey of emotions and enjoyment. The music arrangements and orchestrations were brilliantly engineered and appropriate, capturing the overall essence and mood of the play itself. The vocalists were refreshingly versatile and professional and need never take a back seat to anyone. The subject matter of the play was handled in a most unobtrusive and delicate manner that would touch the heart of the most skeptical of critics and dissidents. **Lonnie Jones Bridge & Mill Music Lojon Music**

2. GayRights.Change.Org

When Musicals Tackle Transgender Equality and Acceptance

by **Jordan Rubenstein** | June 26, 2010 | 08:57 AM (PT)

Topics: **LGBT Families, Transgender Issues**

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Considering the success of the musicals *Rent* and *Avenue Q*, it perhaps isn't surprising for a musical to have gay or transgender themes. What is surprising is when the musical pops up in the middle of Kentucky. The Kentucky Center, in Louisville, is showing a musical about a transgender woman living as a member of a southern Indiana family.

The musical [follows the transition of a transgender woman](#), Miyia O'Bannon. Miyia felt like a woman from an early age and attempted suicide as a teenager. In *The Prodigal*, Miyia's family goes through a journey to understand, accept, and love her.

Edwin Bonilla

Jun 26, 2010 @ 06:50PM PT

Plays like "Prodigal" help people understand tolerance for transgender people.

It's good that the O'Bannon has helped create that play because it follows Miyia O'Bannon's young years. "Prodigal" provides a family that is more religious than me and with the stages of acceptance towards Miyia, this is a play which depicts the coming out of a transgender person realistically. I think transgender youth will be more courageous to come out because of the play.

Tiffany Gillenwaters

Jun 27, 2010 @ 06:02AM PT

I just saw this play yesterday and it was amazing! And if you're from here it's actually not that surprising that *The Prodigal* is in Louisville, Kentucky. Louisville is a very gay friendly city with a large gay community.

Neil Brown

Jun 29, 2010 @ 07:27PM PT

We NEED this play. I saw it twice over the weekend and watched the outpour of love and support. Watched families cry and reconnect. Saw pastors who finally began to understand. It is beautifully written and presented. It did not once ever present a theological debate about right or wrong...it present a very human experience of a young man struggling with his identity and finally coming to terms with it and his acceptance of personal truth.

If you missed this musical, you missed a sharp, witty and fun to explore the issues surrounding transgendered people in society without exploitation. You NEED to see it and you need to donate in whatever capacity that you can so the O'Bannon family can continue to spread this message of hope to others.

The Prodigal
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