

11 x 10 Paper

Every play was excellent so I will write a short paragraph about each one; there will be some actors and a play in particular I will be focusing on.

“How to survive in Corporate America” was a great show to start off with, every actor was articulate, I could immediately understand what was going on due to the narrator and every gesture felt very natural. Chase Moore (You) acted very well and I was very impressed with his rapid-fire speech with his boss while incorporating “die” every couple million times; he reacted flawlessly every time a new personality came into the play but the person who stole the limelight of the show was Kevin, who played multiple personalities before finally settling on the “boss” personality. Every personality switch was seamless and believable and in the short amount of time he had with Cecil and Cecile, I could immediately tell he was two completely different characters. I absolutely loved the obnoxious personality he brought in with the boss though one thing I felt was a little bit over the top was Chase’s reaction to Kevin’s heart attack revival. It added a great comical effect but felt just a tad too fake.

“Sister Snell” was a fun play to watch, Monica (Snell) was sometimes a little bit hard to hear at times but her transition from a slutty nun to a promiscuous teenager was easily visible and could tell the difference apart immediately. In my personal opinion, I am not sure if Geena’s (Charlotte) voice is naturally like that, her voice sounded too high-pitched and so made the plays she was in, not so natural because her voice was in a completely different pitch compared to play. Marianna (Mary) had a great comical effect on the show, not seeing her made the play even funnier but a great cherry-on-the-top addition she could add, is when she is called to get Geena (Charlotte) from the bathroom, she could walk away so her footsteps are audible to the audience. It struck out to me how in the audience, her voice could be heard but nothing else – like rustling of papers as she is working or footsteps.

I will be focusing on “The Visit” a lot. Out of all the plays, I loved this one the most purely because of Ashley’s (Mother) reaction to Joey (Son). It was hard to grasp what the play was talking about even though they were both articulate and audible, but it was meant to be that way with patients with mental illnesses. And thus I couldn’t figure out what the play was about till the end, I was focusing on how they acted and they both acted exemplary. Joey (Son) delved deep into his character’s personality and didn’t break the 4th wall and since he was so passionate and into his character, Ashley’s (Mother) reaction didn’t feel timed or practiced at all; it felt like she genuinely felt scared at a couple points in the play. The chemistry between the two were great – the mother caring for the son, but I felt a bit disappointed at the end scene. Throughout the whole play, I didn’t understand why they had a dummy there and when Ashley (Mother) spoke to it, it was such a let-down in comparison to her performance previously.

I do not have much to say about “After You”, but because of that, it meant that the play was acted out excellently. No extra drama, just a person doing a small favour for his ex and leaving after her several failed attempts, just a simple casual encounter. If they had started a fight or something, creating extra drama, it would have felt unnatural and forced.

“Baby War” was a great play; Stevie (Patricia) played an excellent uptight, know-it-all character, Monica (April) defended her feelings as a pregnant teenager and the ending was amusing.

“4 AM (Open All Night)” was another great comedic play with great articulation, story and gesturing. Everybody’s act was believable and Stevie’s transformation from one character to another was great. I would really like to give a shout-out to Daniel Darity (Doc), he made the whole scene come together with a hilarious effect.

“Pillow Talk” was the play I laughed at the most. It was a ridiculous but hilarious play, I liked how Tiffany (Katie) appeared in charge but then broke down then fell in love again; her personality and emotions changed like the wind but then, that’s how girls are. Drew (Mark) played a great character, and the level of how uncomfortable he was when he was caressed by Baylor (Roger) shot off the charts, Mark has great potential to become the next Michael Cera! I could tell Baylor was new to acting and while his gestures and movement were great, his acting would shoot up to the next level if he put some pitch in his voice – in both his plays, though he did act better as Tim, his voice was in a monotone.

“Zachary Zwillinger Eats People” was an odd but funny play to watch. Joey (Zachary) really becomes his character and turning from a mentally ill patient to an especially flamboyant vampire was hilarious. As I said before, Geena’s (Sugar Plum Fairy) voice put me off a bit but in the Sugar Plum Fairy role, it did fit her well. What I really liked about the show was the dancing at the very beginning and end, Joey’s passionate face was really into it and it made Geena laugh a little bit due to the absurdity and how Joey was the character, but what really topped it off was Avery’s (Lauren) switch from a friend to a narrator. She was a bit hard to understand at times, not because I couldn’t hear her but because of the actual script itself so there was no fault in her.

“Fear of Spheres” was just like “Pillow Talk”, ridiculous but hilarious. Everybody acted great – from Katie’s (Alice) and Kevin’s (Therapist) innuendos to Chas’s (Joaquin) abrupt Great Balls of Fire. Baylor acted better in this play than the one he did previously and all-in-all, a brilliantly executed great idea with little to no props.

“Do-Overs” was actually very thought-provoking and made me think about reincarnation in Buddhism. Funny lines, great acting and the chemistry between Brenna (Woman) and JT (Man) really felt like they had been together for eons and most of the time, end up together no matter where they are.

“The Other Shoe” was a good show to finish off with. Chas (Johnny) acted great and completely differently from his Joaquin, but I would like to focus on Kalley (The Dropper) a bit. She was articulate, but from where I was sitting (Stage Right) I could only see her face from side-on and thus I unconsciously started to “not hear her” and I really had to concentrate to catch what she was saying. She was also speaking in a monotone-ish voice but I was really impressed when she faltered, composed herself and picked up from where she forgot her lines. If any lines were skipped, I didn’t notice and I wouldn’t have noticed that she forgot her lines if Scott didn’t point out to me of how an actor should deal with it if it occurs.

That comes to the end of my paper and I would really like to thank all the cast members for putting in so much work and producing such a memorable night.