



NOBODY LOVES YOU



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THEATER REVIEW

MONDAY • MAY 21, 2012

A MUSICAL SPOOF WITH OOMPH: 'NOBODY LOVES YOU' IS ABSURD FUN

Poke at reality TV provides over-the-top songs, a cast for laughs

JAMES HEBERT • U-T

Say this about the Old Globe's playfully entertaining "Nobody Loves You": The spoofy musical set in the world of reality TV has at least as much to do with the truth of that genre as reality TV has to do with, say, actual reality.

If some of its parodies of those programs are too absurd for words (maybe even too twee for tweets), the world-premiere production still gets a lot of good laughs out of its clueless characters and gleefully over-the-top songs.

The show may plink at some easy targets and conclude without a whole lot of consequence, but the trip it takes to the most ridiculous fringes of reality-land can be a blast to witness.

The musical, written by former Globe playwright-in-residence Itamar Moses ("The Four of Us," "Back Back Back") and scored by Gaby Alter (with lyrics by both), takes its name from the televised match-making show at its center. That program is like a dating take on "Survivor," with the added cruelty of something like "The Weakest Link" (the show's

title is the last thing losing contestants hear as they're dispatched).

But "NLY" (in fan shorthand) also has a cloying Vegas vibe, thanks mostly to Byron (Heath Calvert), the extra-cheesy emcee at its center.

Calvert's amusingly dippy performance is suited like a crushed-velvet tux to such lyrics as "You'll run a race on a track that's coated in slime" — sung to contestants in the middle of what's supposed to be a seductive power ballad. With his precious falsetto and vaguely Latin dance stylings (choreographed with plenty of wit by Mandy Moore), he's like a one-man boy band.

The party-crasher is Jeff (an acerbic Adam Kantor), the cynical grad student writing his thesis (conveniently) on the gap between perception and reality. Although he slags "NLY" to his girlfriend (and die-hard fangirl) as "a toxic lie about how your life is supposed to feel," he winds up auditioning in a bid to win her back after she dumps him.

Instead, he encounters Jenny (versatile Jenni Barber of the Globe's recent "Some Lovers"), a production assistant and



Adam Kantor (center) plays Jeff, a cynical grad student, in "Nobody Loves You." HENRY DIROCCO

aspiring filmmaker who is similarly put off by the whole "NLY" phenomenon. You've heard of "meet cute"; this is more like meet peevish, as they trade jaundiced observations in the winningly withering song "So Much to Hate."

In the meantime, the other contestants are cultivating matches made in hell. Lauren Molina is a scene-stealer as Megan, the hard-drinking party girl with the frizzed hair and pickled brain; Kelsey Kurz is the upright, uptight Christian (both his name and his calling); Kate Morgan Chadwick is the clingy, ever-disappointed schoolteacher Samantha; and Alex Brightman is Dominic, the oafish would-be Roméo.

Almost all the actors play multiple roles; Brightman's best is as Evan, a Twitter-obsessed "NLY"

devotee clad in a geek-chic Norwegian jumpsuit (one of many funny costume touches by Emily Pepper). Nicole Lewis also has a nice turn as the shrewd producer Nina.

Director Michelle Tattenbaum could teach TiVo a thing or two about time-shifting: She does a deft job of transitioning between live action on the set of "NLY" and scenes that take place outside the show, often involving people watching the program weeks after taping. Her work meshes well with Michael Schweikardt's sets, which (combined with Tyler Micoleau's sometimes lurid lighting) add to the comically overwrought drama of the climactic "NLY" scenes.

Alter's pop-rock score finds a propulsive groove while also indulging in satire of its own on such songs as "You're Incredibly

"Nobody Loves You"

Old-Globe Theatre

When: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays (no matinee June 9); 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays; plus 2 p.m. June 6. Through June 17.

Where: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park.

Tickets: Approximately \$29-\$72 (subject to change)

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

Real," complete with the amusingly gratuitous Big Key Change. Music director/conductor/keyboardist Vadim Feichtner and his three (unseen) bandmates play the tunes with pizazz somewhere below the stage. (Speaking of TiVo: Paul Peterson's fine sound design even takes in the signature blurps of that pioneering device.)

The contrast between the breathless tenor of the musical's satire and the sincerity of its central love story, though, ultimately begins to split "Nobody Loves You" at the seams. The piece doesn't offer an audience much preparation for its relatively earnest finale, and it's not clear Jeff and Jenny make any kind of real journey during the play (that Path of Slime aside).

The reality might be that unscripted TV serves as better fodder for comedy than for comprehension.

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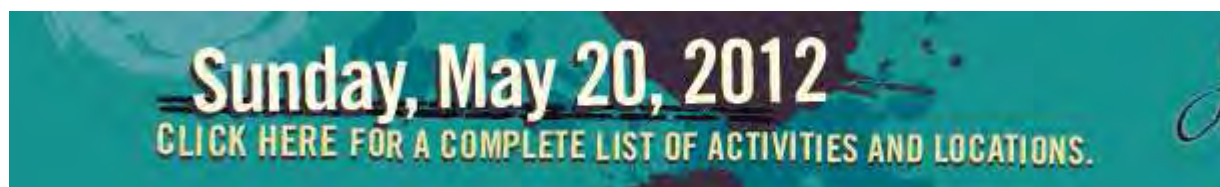
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Play review: Love's a laugh in 'Nobody'

Satire boosts Globe's reality-TV musical, but message ultimately muddled

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Heath Calvert as Byron (bottom) with Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz in the Old Globe's "Nobody Loves You." — Henry DiRocco



Written by
James

Say this about the Old Globe's playfully entertaining "Nobody Loves You": The spoofy musical set in the world of reality TV has at least as much to do



Hebert

2:10 p.m., May 18, 2012

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Play review: Love's a laugh in 'Nobody'



The Front Row: Celebs onstage



Diversionary's new season takes wing

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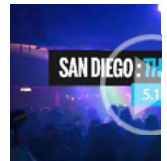
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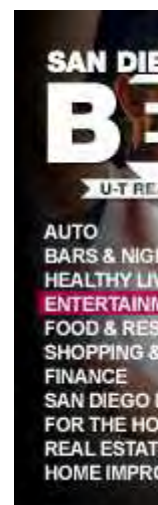


Heath Calvert as Byron (bottom) with Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz in the Old Globe's "Nobody Loves You." — Henry DiRocco



Written by
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Director Michelle Tattenbaum could teach TiVo a thing or two about





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Legit Reviews

Posted: Sun., May. 20, 2012, 1:57pm PT

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Nobody Loves You

(The Old Globe, San Diego; 285 seats; \$79 top)

By BOB VERINI

An Old Globe presentation of a musical in one act with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses. Directed by Michelle Tattenbaum. Choreography by Mandy Moore. Musical direction, Vadim Feichtner. Sets, Michael Schweikardt; costumes, Emily Pepper; lighting, Tyler Micoeau; sound, Paul Peterson; orchestrations and vocal arrangements, Alter. Opened May 17, 2012. Reviewed May 19. Runs through June 17. Running time: 105 MIN.

Jenny - Jenni Barber

Chazz/Dominic/Evan - Alex Brightman

Jeff - Adam Kantor

With: Heath Calvert, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Kelsey Kurz, Nicole Lewis, Lauren Molina.

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The reality show craze has spawned erudite academic theses and furious op-ed pieces; entertainments both cerebral ("The Truman Show") and visceral ("The Hunger Games"); and still more reality shows. Now, miraculously, it has inspired a terrific new American musical. The Old Globe's smart, tuneful "Nobody Loves You" skewers a crackpot TV dating competition without losing sight of the genuinely yearning, burning hearts on either side of the small screen. Delighted audiences in San Diego, and surely elsewhere for years to come, will eagerly hand everyone involved a rose.

Satire requires truthfulness, a ubiquitous quality here beginning with titular "NLY" itself, a preposterous mash-up of "Big Brother," "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" with a little "Real World" and "Survivor" on the side. Handpicked hopefuls interact in hot tubs and relay races to court fandom and earn another week of love seeking, but no antics cooked up by librettist Itamar Moses are so ridiculous as to challenge our belief that, yes, this could actually get aired and thrive.

Then, when cynical, conflicted philosophy grad student Jeff (Adam Kantor, excellent) jealously pursues his ex into auditions and gets picked, we readily buy his decision to stick it out and remain aloof from the overheated hijinks to tease out his doctorate thesis. Would a show tottering in the ratings willingly invite a viper into its bosom? Yep, we buy that too, and we never doubt America would take Jeff to heart when flirtation with ambitious P.A. Jenny (wonderful Jenni Barber) changes all the rules and goes viral.

Playwright Moses has long toyed with multiple layers of ambiguous reality, but in works like "The Four of Us" and "Completeness" his self-conscious metatheatrical conceits seemed fearful of letting tender feelings breathe. Now sparked by collaborator Gaby Alter's infectious melodies and a juicy satiric target he needn't back away from, Moses puts it all together.

Points are scored on slick, sly "NLY" showrunner Nina (superb Nicole Lewis) and fatuous host Byron (Heath Calvert, perfect) even as we're induced truly to care about the contestants' various real and "meta-real" feints and retreats. As Jeff gets sucked into the game in spite of himself, he poses a key question -- "Can one perform and connect at the same time?" -- which couples will debate on the way home and for days after.

The flawless ensemble assembled by casting director Stephanie Klapper demonstrates boundless charm within helmer Michelle Tattenbaum's droll, understated style. Familiar types like the resident drunken slut (Lauren Molina), Christian do-gooder (Kelsey Kurz) and repressed schoolmarm (Kate Morgan Chadwick) win laughs and empathy without courting condescension.

Heaviest comic lifting is shouldered by the extraordinary Alex Brightman. All the show's doubling is impeccable, but he's particularly indistinguishable, and priceless, as Jeff's stoner pal; then a strutting "NLY" guido; and finally a gay homeviewer whose delighted sung Tweets invite us into realityland's inexhaustible appeal.

If too many of Alter's songs fall away without a plangent button, they're too sunny and infused with pop romantic desire for anyone to care, especially as managed by Vadim Feichtner and his unseen snappy combo. Alter and Moses' best lyrics go to the marvelous Kantor and Barber, from their list of shared antipathies in "So Much to Hate" -- a perfect way to kick off a relationship -- to the sweet ballad "I Think I Love You for Real."

"So You Think You Can Dance" choreographer Mandy Moore designs TV-savvy physical moves to match the emotional authenticity. She and lighting designer Tyler Micoleau, who bathes even us in a rosy glow as befitting a very special finale episode, are two of the evening's unsung stars. But as "Nobody Loves You" demonstrates, we're all stars. We just need our moment to prove it.

Contact the Variety newsroom at news@variety.com

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THEATER REVIEW

Flirting with reality

'Nobody Loves You,' a clever new musical, unfolds within a TV dating game.

By MARGARET GRAY

SAN DIEGO — Reality TV has plenty to recommend it — even beyond schadenfreude — but likable characters are not its long suit. "Nobody Loves You," an original musical premiering at the Old Globe in San Diego, is about a fictional televised dating contest also called "Nobody Loves You," a mash-up of "The Bachelor" and "Paradise Hotel" with some clever original twists.

The risk of the premise is a parade of objectionable people mocking themselves in song. But the clever co-creators, Gaby Alter (music and lyrics) and Itamar Moses (book and lyrics), have made their two leads scorn reality TV, ensuring that everyone in the audience, from the reality junkie to the serious hater, will find someone to relate to on this intimate, in-the-round stage.

Jeff (Adam Kantor) is writing his dissertation on ontology, or the study of — how perfect is this? — reality. When his girlfriend, Tanya (Nicole Lewis), leaves him to try out for "Nobody Loves You," Jeff vengefully makes his own audition tape, openly admitting both his disdain for the show and his true goal: not to find love but to stop Tanya from finding it.

Producer Nina (also played by Lewis) likes his contrarian pose and casts him — instead of Tanya. "You're incredibly real," Nina and the show's handsome, fluffy host, Byron (Heath Calvert, an über-Chris Harrison), serenade him. Jeff decides to stay, but only to collect material for his dissertation. He spends his time narrating clinical observations into a digital recorder — a practice that, implausibly, enables him to last until the final round.

More important, it puts him in contact with Jenny (winsome Jenni Barber), a



HENRY DI ROCCO

THE TV HOST (Heath Calvert) and, from left, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Lauren Molina.

brusque behind-the-scenes story editor who really wants to make movies. They fall in love over "So Much to Hate," a duet of shared and diverging bêtes noires. The trouble in paradise: They can't be sure that their reality is any more "real" than the show's.

Only four other contestants appear onstage: Samantha (Kate Morgan Chadwick), who loves not wisely but too well; Christian (Kelsey Kurz), a devout young man conflicted about his lust; drunk floozy Megan (the wonderful Lauren Molina); and Dominic (Alex Brightman, in the least convincing of his three roles — mostly because the other two are so delicious).

The writers must have had a hard time trying to decide how much of the TV show itself to put in, and they have possibly put in too much. But Megan and Christian's zesty, hilarious duet in the hot tub room, "Come On In," must definitely stay.

Another keeper is "The Twitter Song," performed by Evan (Brightman in the best of his three roles; a close second is his turn as Jeff's stoner roommate), a reality junk-

ie who watches and tweets from his couch, dressed in a royal blue "OnePiece of Norway" sweatsuit. Probably the first time the word "hashtag" has been set to music, this number struck me as the clarion call of a new generation's reclamation of the starchy old musical. "Nobody Loves You's" book and songs might feel a little first drafty, but they're still fresh, pertinent and very funny.

calendar@latimes.com

'Nobody Loves You'

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Running time: 1 hour, 45 minutes

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Review: 'Nobody Loves You,' but the reality is, they do



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By Margaret Gray

May 23, 2012 | 1:20 p.m.

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Alex Brightman in his scene-stealing one-piece sweatshirt as Evan in Gaby Alter and Itamar Moses' new musical, "Nobody Loves You," premiering at San Diego's Old Globe. (Henry DiRocco / May 23, 2012)

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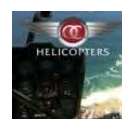
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SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012

For Romance as a Game, Heart Gets in the Way



HENRY DIROCCO

Nobody Loves You, at the Old Globe, features, clockwise from foreground, Heath Calvert, Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz.

SAN DIEGO — The mushrooming of reality television and its lunatic subgenres might seem an unpromising subject for satire. How can you spoof a phenomenon that has metastasized so

**CHARLES
ISHERWOOD**

**THEATER
REVIEW**

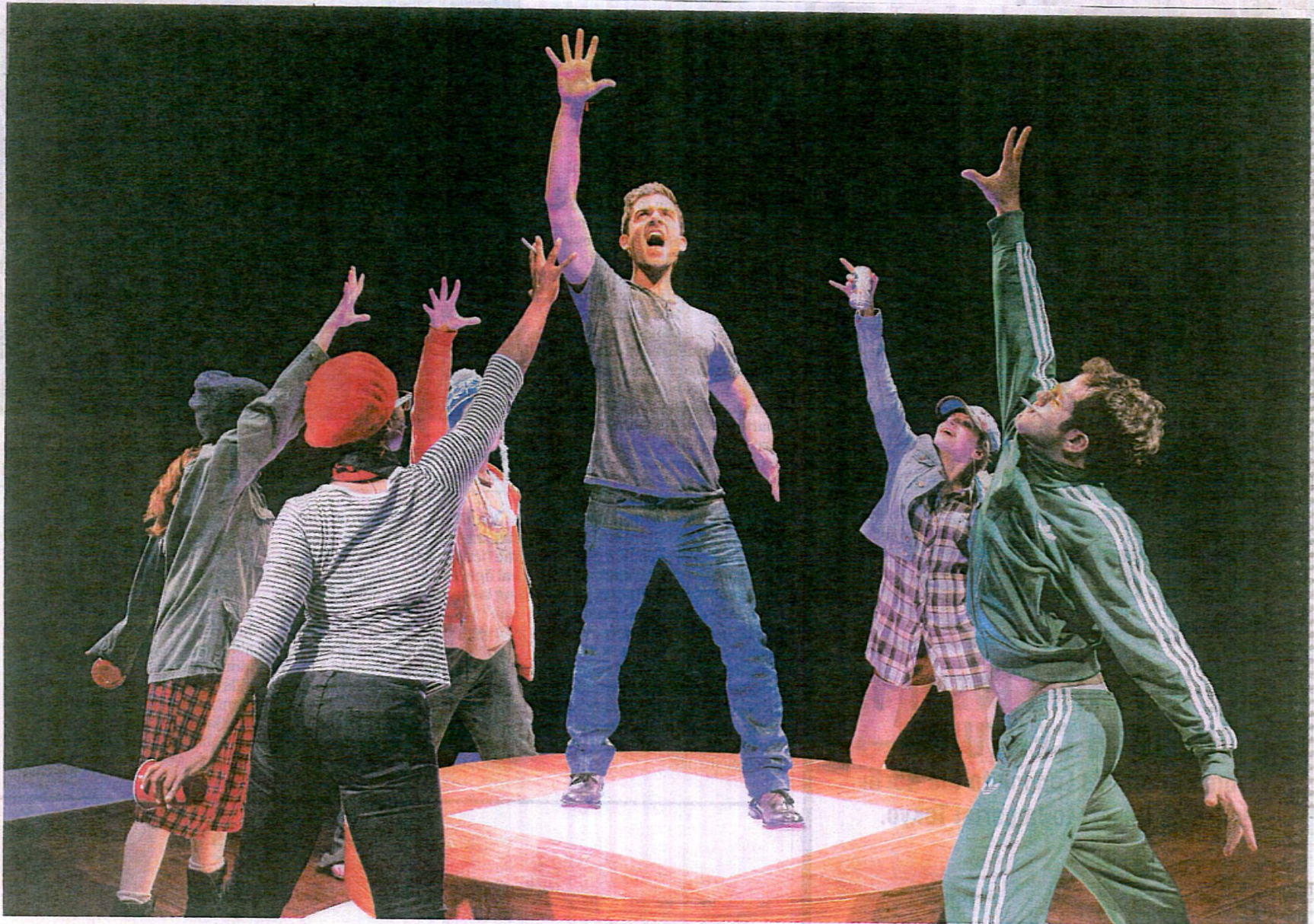
quickly that late-night comics have mostly left it behind as barren turf? “Nobody Loves You,” a delightful chamber musical having its premiere here at the Old Globe Theater, confounds expectations with its verve and ingenuity in poking silly fun at the absurdities of the crass, malice-riddled and embarrassingly addictive shows in which common folk are given a chance to grab the fleeting celebrity spotlight and win love, money or, best of all, a spinoff. To survive and thrive they must outdo the competition in parading their bleeding hearts and histories of dysfunction before a disgusted but obsessed audience. (You know who you are — er, I mean, we know who we are.)

Written by Itamar Moses (book and lyrics) and Gaby Alter (music and lyrics), “Nobody Loves You” takes its title from the love-connection reality show at its center. Those three little words are the catchphrase with which losers are dispatched at the end of each episode, a hilariously on-target comment on the meanspiritedness the genre thrives on. The fictional competition is a mash-up of various current shows, sort of a combination of “The Bachelor,” “Big Brother” and “American Idol.”

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Continued on Page 5

When Romance Is a Game Show, the Heart Just Gets in the Way



Adam Kantor, center, as a reality-show contestant in the Itamar Moses-Gaby Alter chamber musical "Nobody Loves You" at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego.

HENRY DIROCCO

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Our righteous protagonist, Jeff (Adam Kantor), enters the arena seeking both retribution and reunion. He has just been dumped by his girlfriend, Tanya (Nicole Lewis), because she tired of his dismissive sneering at her affection for the show. When Jeff hears she's going to try out, he vows to do so himself, both to win her back and to expose its falsity and cynicism. And, hey, wouldn't appearing on a reality show give his long-gestating dissertation on ontology a nifty pop-culture twist, too?

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When Jeff discovers, to his horror, that Tanya hasn't been selected for the show, he threatens to withdraw. Under pressure from the producers, who think his rebellious spirit might goose the ratings, he decides to remain, figuring that the experience might just be the best way to supplement his "investigation of some of the gaps between how we perceive reality and how it may in fact intrinsically be." He's going to single-handedly debunk the whole reality-television industrial complex, damn it! A series of musical numbers depict the various contestants — the pretty-boy Christian named Christian (Kelsey Kurz), the tipsy tart Megan (Lauren Molina), the lady-killer Dominic (Alex Brightman) and the lovelorn schoolteacher Samantha (Kate Morgan Chadwick) — as they are put through various contrived humiliations. hilariously insipid commentary is supplied by the show's preening host, Byron, played with lubricious perfection by Heath Calvert: "Laughter. Tears. Laughter through tears. Crying with laughter. All that and more coming up tonight on the season premiere of 'Nobody Loves You.'"

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*Episode 10 and barely coping
With the fact that I'm still
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*They'll reveal some secret
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Frowny face times 20!

The show's notable weakness is the generic pop flavor of most of Mr. Alter's music. It's easy on the ears, and some of the bubbly innocuousness can be put down to an attempt to mimic the slick, synthesizer-driven sound of the fanfares on shows of this ilk. Still, when the musical sets aside its satiric impulses to draw us into the love story between Jeff and Jenny, the music doesn't gain in depth or richness.

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*On the first season, I'm proud
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Can't wait to watch, Evan. Or, wait, have I already missed it?

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THEATER REVIEW

For Romance as a Game, Heart Gets in the Way

'Nobody Loves You,' TV Satire at Old Globe in San Diego



Henry DiRocco

Nobody Loves You, at the Old Globe, features, clockwise from foreground, Heath Calvert, Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz.

By [CHARLES ISHERWOOD](#)

Published: June 8, 2012

SAN DIEGO — The mushrooming of reality television and its lunatic subgenres might seem an unpromising subject for satire. How can you spoof a phenomenon that has metastasized so quickly

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Henry DiRocco

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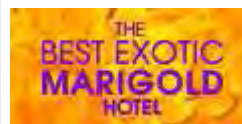
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Old Globe's 'Nobody Loves You' is fresh, funny

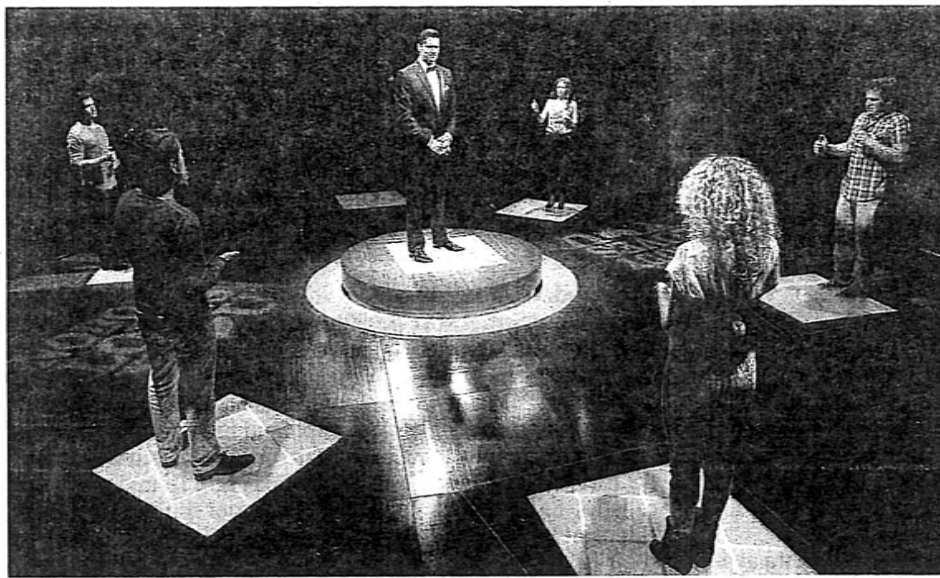
By PAM KRAGEN
pkragen@nctimes.com

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Moses' book is filled with deliciously snarky insider humor about the unreality of reality TV, the psychological characteristics that compel seemingly intelligent people to compete for artificial on-camera romance, and the shallowness and greed that drives the production of these sleazy (but addictive) shows.

And yet, as sharp as this satire may be, there's an unexpected current of sweetness flowing underneath. True love can blossom in the unlikelyst of places, the producer and host may be manipulative but they're not evil, and the TV show's fans are entertained and even



The cast of "Nobody Loves You," playing through June 17 at The Old Globe.

Courtesy of Henry DiRocco

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

WHEN: 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays; 7 p.m. Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; through June 17

WHERE: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego

TICKETS: \$39 and up

INFO: 619-234-5623; theoldglobe.org

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The musical depicts the filming of a reality television show, and as the season's filming begins, cameras on either side of scenic designer Michael Schweikardt's TV set are ever-present. Then, almost imperceptibly, they gradually disappear from view — both for the contestants and for the Globe audience. Where does the fakery end and the reality begin? When does the audience of the play become the audience for the TV series? Tattenbaum and Moses play with these layers in fascinating ways.

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Still, the show's a delight to watch, highly contemporary and appealing to younger audiences, and it's refreshing to see a new musical in such tight shape for its premiere. It's must-watch TV.

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THEATER REVIEW: Globe's 'Nobody Loves You' is fresh, funny

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The cast of the World Premiere musical Nobody Loves You, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, playing through June 17 at The Old Globe. Courtesy of Henry DiRocco

May 18, 2012 7:42 pm • By [PAM KRAGEN](#) pkragen@nctimes.com

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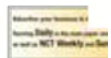
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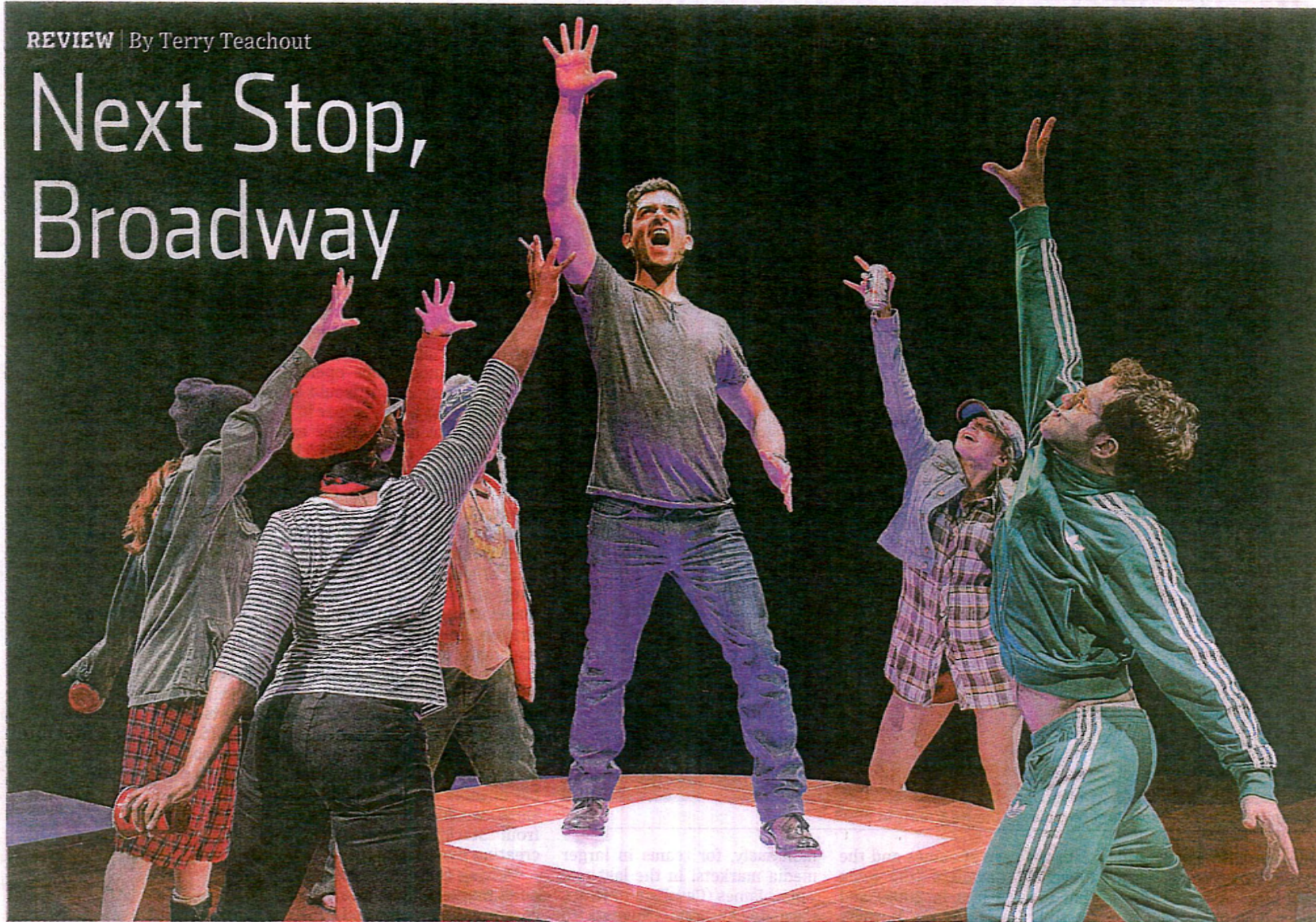
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REVIEW | By Terry Teachout

Next Stop, Broadway



Adam Kantor as Jeff, center, with fellow cast members in Itamar Moses and Gaby Alter's 'Nobody Loves You.'

Henry D'Rocco

Nobody Loves You

Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way,
San Diego
(\$29-\$72), 619-23-GLOBE, closes June 17

Hands on a Hardbody

La Jolla Playhouse,
2910 La Jolla Village Drive,
La Jolla, Calif.
(\$42-\$85), 858-550-1010, closes June 17



IN CASE YOU'VE been worrying that the American musical is all washed up, fear not: I just got back from San Diego, where

I saw two noteworthy shows that filled me with hope. Granted, they're still in development, and one of them is considerably more finished than the other, but both of these shows are already far more interesting than any of the new musicals ("Once" excepted) that made it to Broadway this past season.

"Nobody Loves You," in which a geeky philosophy major (Adam Kantor) auditions for a "Survivor"-style reality TV show to make his ex jealous, could transfer to New York pretty much intact. The book, by Itamar Moses, is part openhearted rom-com, part dead-on satire (Mr. Moses, who has written for "Boardwalk Empire" and "Men of a Certain Age," knows his way around a TV studio). The songs, by Mr. Moses and Gaby Alter, are instantaneously catchy pop-rock ditties with brainy lyrics: "I hate naive idealists / And cynical nihilists / I like open-eyed realists / With an idealistic core." Every number pushes the plot forward, resulting in a musical that seems even shorter than it is (105 minutes, no intermission).

The Old Globe, which commissioned "Nobody Loves You," is mounting the show in the round in the same 250-seat house where it presented the U.S. premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's "Life of Riley" last summer. Not only is this intimate space ideal for small-scale musicals, but the production, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum and choreographed by Mandy Moore, is as crisp and smart as the show itself. Everyone in the cast is immensely likable and impeccably accomplished.

I suppose the last 10 minutes of "Nobody Loves You" could be tightened up slightly, but you probably wouldn't notice that anything was amiss unless you were specifically looking for problems. Truth to tell, this musical is close to bulletproof. It's tailor-made for Off Broadway, though I can just as easily see it transferring to a compact Broadway house like Circle in the Square. Either way, it has the smell of a hit.

* * *

The producers of "Hands on a Hardbody" announced on Wednesday that the show, commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse and currently running there, will move to Broadway this coming season. That's good news. Even though "Hardbody" still needs quite a bit of revision before making the big leap, it bears the unmistakable marks of a musical that is at once charmingly quirky and genuinely affecting, the same mix that made "Once" a sleeper hit.

Directed by Neil Pepe and performed by a top-of-the-line ensemble cast led by Keith Carradine and Hunter Foster, "Hands on a Hardbody" is a fictionalized version of the much-admired 1997 film documentary about a Texas endurance competition whose contestants must keep one

hand on a brand-new pickup truck until they walk away in frustration or collapse from exhaustion. The last man (or woman) standing wins the truck. The book is by Doug Wright, the author of "I Am My Own Wife," who has set "Hardbody" in the present, emphasizing the brutalizing effects of the recession on the 10 contestants and using the truck—which remains at center stage throughout the evening—as a symbol of the American dream in all its shiny, seductive imperfection. The result is a musical that plays like a cross between "The Full Monty" and "Twelve Angry Men" (yes, one of the contestants turns out to be a bigot).

What works? Mr. Wright has done a lovely job of suggesting the way in which real-life Texans talk. Not only does he never condescend to his characters, but he even takes their old-time religion seriously. The score, by Amanda Green ("High Fidelity") and Trey Anastasio, who is better known as the guitarist of Phish, is uneven in spots, but all of the ballads are beautiful, especially "Used to Be," a richly evocative portrait of small-town life in the sterile age of the strip mall: "If it looks the same / Everywhere you roam / Tell me, how do you know / When you've gotten home?" I especially admire the way in which Ms. Green and Mr. Anastasio have made use of a wide variety of pop-music styles ranging from alt-country to flat-out rock 'n' roll without falling into the open pit of unfelt, plasticized pastiche.

What's wrong? The premise of "Hardbody," most of whose characters are required to stand in one place most of the time, makes it too physically static to fill the space of a Broadway stage. In addition, Mr. Wright's book is loose-jointed to a fault. Not only are you unsure who to root for until the second act, but far too much of the first act is spent introducing the 10 contestants (of whom there are two too many). As a result, "Hardbody" feels slow, on occasion agonizingly so. It doesn't help that no more than half of the lyrics are coming through clearly—other people sitting in my row at Tuesday night's performance felt the same way.

Most of these flaws, however, can be fixed with a shrewdly wielded blue pencil, giving "Hands on a Hardbody" a straight shot at commercial success. Even in its present form, "Hardbody" is sweet, sincere, refreshingly uncynical and full of fine songs. That's a lot to like. All that's needed is craft to match.

Mr. Teachout, the Journal's drama critic, blogs about theater and the other arts at www.terryteachout.com. Write to him at tteachout@wsj.com.

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THEATER | Updated May 31, 2012, 8:35 p.m. ET

Next Stop, Broadway

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Nobody Loves You

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Enlarge Image

Henry DiRocco

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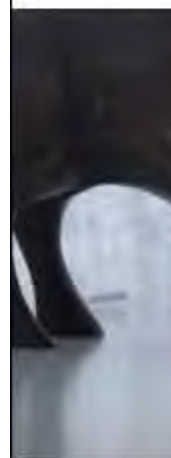
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Corrections & Amplifications: The film documentary "Hands on a Hardbody" was released in 1997. An earlier version of this story incorrectly said it was released in 1999.

A version of this article appeared June 1, 2012, on page D9 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: Next Stop, Broadway.

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LA Review: 'Nobody Loves You' At the Old Globe

Reviewed by Katherine Davis

MAY 24, 2012



Photo by Henry DiRocco

breaks up with him. In an attempt to win her back he joins the cast of "Nobody Loves You," a reality-TV show along the lines of "The Bachelor," and soon realizes he has found the perfect topic for his research. When he meets Jenny, a crew member, he quickly forgets about his ex-girlfriend. Behind the scenes of this show designed to manufacture love, Jeff and Jenny fall for each other, bonding amusingly over things they mutually hate. Then, after an hour and a half of shenanigans and singing, everything resolves with a predictably happy ending.

"Nobody Loves You" packs in a lot of songs into 90 minutes (the actors are almost constantly

"Nobody Loves You," a musical about reality TV, has a Muzak score and eye-rolling jokes, but there is also a smartness to its humor. In the hands of capable artists, the world-premiere musical by Gaby Alter (music and lyrics) and Itamar Moses (book and lyrics) is silly but fun.

Cynical grad student Jeff is trying to write a philosophy dissertation about the meaning of reality when his girlfriend

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singing), but the music isn't very memorable; it all has a generic pop sound. On the other hand, the lyrics are clever, giving the show a tongue-in-cheek humor that is one of its most entertaining aspects.

The characters here are one-dimensional, but the actors deserve credit for landing laughs without turning the characters into ridiculous caricatures. Adam Kantor is endearing as pretentious academic Jeff, revealing a fine singing voice that is applied to the less-than-interesting score. Jenni Barber as Jenny is also lovably nerdy, but because the script forces her to spend most of the show moping, she is a little dreary for a romantic lead. Alex Brightman plays three characters but gets the most laughs of anyone as the obsessed fan Evan, who watches the TV show in his pajamas and sings his Twitter updates—"#’s, "@’s, and all. As Nina and Byron, the ratings-conscious producer and host of the TV show, Nicole Lewis and Heath Calvert are appropriately shallow, their affected charm lending amusing sarcasm to their interactions. Kate Morgan Chadwick, Kelsey Kurz, and Lauren Molina, as the supporting reality-show characters, keep the energy high in places where it could easily fall flat.

Director Michelle Tattenbaum and choreographer Mandy Moore uses the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre’s theater-in-the-round effectively, aided immeasurably by Michael Schweikardt’s cool and simple set, which easily transitions from sleek studio to sexy hot tub and back with the help of Tyler Micoleau’s colorful lighting. The show’s stagehands, who bravely step into the spotlight in this production to give the impression of a busy TV crew, earn well-deserved laughs.

Like the programs that it mocks, "Nobody Loves You" doesn’t offer much intellectual stimulation but accomplishes its goal—it entertains.

Presented by and at the Old Globe, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego. May 9–June 17. Tue. and Wed., 7 p.m.; Thu. and Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 2 and 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 and 7 p.m. (619) 234-5623 or www.theoldglobe.org/tickets. Casting by Stephanie Klapper.

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Nobody Loves You at the Old Globe

[Jeff Smith](#), May 20, 2012

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TV's most damning expression reigns when the jobless rate's rarely been higher. Viewers wait an hour to hear what's-his-hair shout "you're FIRED!"

Itamar Moses and Gaby Alter's featherweight musical comedy freatures an expression even more damning. When contestants get voted off a reality TV show, somewhat like *The Bachelor*, the MC tells them, in front of a national audience, "Nobody loves you."

Jeff (Adam Kantor) is writing a dissertation about perception and gaps in reality - or is it gaps in perception? When Tanya (Nicole Lewis) dumps him and auditions for the show, he tries to bring her back.

And becomes a contestant, even though he vows to reveal the reality of reality TV (he may make discoveries, but he expresses them in such high-buck terms they may only make sense to him).

Nobody follows the series in front of, and behind, the cameras. A possible romance blooms off-stage when Jeff and Jenny (Jenni Barber) find something in common: both hate the show. But is true love possible, ontologically speaking, in a world where life's become as illusory as TV?

The 100-minute, intermissionless musical unfolds with obligatory scenes and predictably mismatched

pairings. Meagan (Lauren Molina), a free-spirited alcoholic, falls for Christian (Kelsy Kurtz) who's wedded to purity. Director Michelle Tattenbaum and choreographer Mandy Moore keep the show perky, though slow spots need tightening.

Press hoopla claims *Nobody* is "irreverent," though it's hard to be irreverent about something that's hard to revere. When the authors go for big points - as when Jeff claims that "being famous is like being in love" - they fall flat. And I wish someone would bemoan that reality TV doesn't hire actors, writers, or often even designers. The "story" is in the hands of editors adept at shaping raw data.

The authors touch on a subject they could expand: the erosion of privacy (and how viewers do entitled surveillance). Where they succeed, again and again, are with hilarious asides, throw-away lines, and lyrics. The musical's intermittently entertaining and often funniest where you least expect it.

The cast does competent work, in roles a titch above generic. Two stand out: Heath Clavert's Byron, the tall, tuxedo'd MC, is a hoot. His mind's such a vacant lot, you wonder if he even exists off camera (turns out, he just might). And Alex Brightman plays three distinct characters with distinction. When his Evan sings "The Twitter Song," he stops the show.

Cudos to Paul Peterson. His sound design's so exact you'd swear the orchestra's invisible on stage, rather than beneath it at the White Theatre.

Nobody Loves You , Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park, playing through June 17.
619-234-5623.

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'Nobody Loves You' is cute, entertaining

By Carol Davis



Carol Davis

SAN DIEGO— Following on the heels of The La Jolla Playhouse unveiling its world premiere docu-musical, *Hands on a Hardbody* by Doug Wright (book), Amanda Green (lyrics) and Trey Anastasio (music), The Old Globe has unleashed another world premiere musical, *Nobody Loves You* by Itamar Moses (Book and Lyrics) and Gaby Alter (Music and Lyrics with orchestrations and vocal arrangements)

Not to make comparisons, but... where “Hardbody” is anchored in the showroom of a Nissan car dealership in Longview, Texas, and has no place else to go, just the opposite can be said of *Nobody Loves You*. It’s about a television reality show called, ta- da! *Nobody Loves You*” and is situated in America, the not-to-distant present.

NLY is a behind the cameras look at the shenanigans that go in to the makings of a reality TV show. It captures the matchmaking deals from hell where the last one standing without a partner gets a little shove on the forehead and a nod that ‘nobody loves you’ and poof, you’re off the show. Contestants are voted in or out by the audience. It’s all about the ratings, my friends and it’s all caught on camera (with a little editing).

Grad student Jeff (Adam Kantor is just as cute and petulant as ever) and his girlfriend Tanya (Nicole Lewis) are on different planets when it comes to managing a relationship. He’s writing his thesis on the gap between perception and reality and she’s obsessed with the reality show *Nobody Loves You*.

After a tiff and walkout because he doesn’t take the show as seriously as she, she decides to audition to become a contestant on the show and find the “someone who already *is* the guy I was always trying to get you to be”. But when Jeff follows her and auditions for the show he learns that they didn’t accept her but they want him. (Lewis is attractive and convincing later on as she shows up as the show’s producer Nina.)

Once on the set Jeff meets Jenny (Jenni Barber) the production assistant and well... It’s just a matter of time that their reality is under scrutiny. Both are outsiders wanting more out of life than to be on a reality show. Jeff and Jenny play the cat and mouse game as Jeff records all the comings and goings of how the show works in order to use the information for the bulk of his thesis and to expose it to the world as the fraud he thinks it is.

All the while, others are going through the ‘meet and greet’ part of the show and it is hilarious. Contestants are assigned to different rooms to get acquainted. There is the Jello Room, Mirror Room, Pillow Fight Room and Hot Tub Room. It’s here that contestants Christian (Kelsey Kurtz ‘OMG too funny)) and Megan (Lauren Molina) perform their hot tune duet “Come On In” and it about brings the house down. Kurtz’ Christian is very Christian and works hard at practicing his religion. Megan is a schoolteacher and a lush. The push pull of the couple is the funniest number in a series of fun filled spoofing the entire evening.

Schoolteacher Samantha and flirt Dominic (Kate Morgan Chadwick and Alex Brightman) make up another less interesting pair but Brightman, who plays several of the gay characters including Jeff’s stoner roommate Chazz and Jenny’s tweeting roommate Evan, is a keeper. He has one of the best and funniest character parts in the whole 90+ minute production.

After the couples have been through two weeks of ‘dating’ (they are under strict surveillance round the clock) they come to the ‘Crush or Be Crushed’ part of the show where they write the name of their ‘crush’ on a CD and anoint each other with it.

The NLY show is pure glitz and faux glamour headed by a smile a minute emcee Byron (Heath Calvert is great) whose only thoughts are fed to him through his earpiece. Other than that he’s a tuxedo ready to sing on cue, “Which love is for real?”

With some zippy and snappy music and lyrics driven by a talented and appealing ensemble, this contemporary piece should charm most everyone especially if the sound (Paul Peterson) is brought down by a few decibels

and you don't get stuck sitting in front of a few yahoos who were so damn loud and obnoxious that I wanted to muzzle them. Next time fella's, put on your theatre manners. 'Nuff said on that matter.

Despite the fact that you will never see or hear me engaged in a conversation about a reality TV show, (I just don't watch them) doesn't negate the fact that I love a good laugh. Go ahead and 'make my day'. Both Itamar and Alter and friend, the third leg of the dynamic trio, director Michelle Tattenbaum, manage to create some very funny dialogue and hilarious stage pictures. That the outcome is predictable and some of the 'story' line seems too cutesy and will most likely go through some tightening up, matters not. Those seeing "Nobody Loves You" won't care.

See you at the theatre.

Dates: Through June 17th

Organization: Old Globe Theatre

Phone: 619-234-5623

Production Type: Musical Comedy

Where:

Ticket Prices: start at \$39.00

Web: theoldglobe.org

Venue: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre

*

Davis is a San Diego-based theatre critic. She may be contacted at carol.davis@sdjewishworld.com

Short URL: <http://www.sdjewishworld.com/?p=28215>



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Rating for Nobody Loves You:



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Gaby Alter

Itamar Moses

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Adam Kantor

Alex Brightman

and goings of how the show works in order to use the information for the bulk of his thesis and to expose it to the world as the fraud he thinks it is.

All the while, others are going through the 'meet and greet' part of the show and it is hilarious. Contestants are assigned to different rooms to get acquainted. There is the Jello Room, Mirror Room, Pillow Fight Room and Hot Tub Room. It's here that contestants Christian (Kelsey Kurtz 'OMG too funny')) and Megan (Lauren Molina) perform their hot tune duet "Come On In" and it about brings the house down. Kurtz' Christian is very Christian and works hard at practicing his religion. Megan is a schoolteacher and a lush. The push pull of the couple is the funniest number in a series of fun filled spoofing the entire evening.

Schoolteacher Samantha and flirt Dominic (Kate Morgan Chadwick and Alex Brightman) make up another less interesting pair but Brightman, who plays several of the gay characters including Jeff's stoner roommate Chazz and Jenny's tweeting roommate Evan, is a keeper. He has one of the best and funniest character parts in the whole 90+ minute production.

After the couples have been through two weeks of 'dating' (they are under strict surveillance round the clock) they come to the 'Crush or Be Crushed' part of the show where they write the name of their 'crush' on a CD and anoint each other with it.

The NLY show is pure glitz and faux glamour headed by a smile a minute emcee Byron (Heath Calvert is great) whose only thoughts are fed to him through his earpiece. Other than that he's a tuxedo ready to sing on cue, "Which love is for real?"

With some zippy and snappy music and lyrics driven by a talented and appealing ensemble, this contemporary piece should charm most everyone especially if the sound (Paul Peterson) is brought down by a few decibels and you don't get stuck sitting in front of a few yahoos who were so damn loud and obnoxious that I wanted to muzzle them. Next time fella's, put on your theatre manners. 'Nuff said on that matter.

Despite the fact that you will never see or hear me engaged in a conversation about a reality TV show, (I just don't watch them) doesn't negate the fact that I love a good laugh. Go ahead and 'make my day'. Both Itamar and Alter and friend, the third leg of the dynamic trio, director Michelle Tattenbaum manage to create some very funny dialogue and hilarious stage pictures. That the outcome is predictable and some of the 'story' line seems too cutesy and will most likely go through some tightening up matters not. Those seeing "Nobody Loves You" won't care.

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REVIEW

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Nobody Loves You

By [Rob Stevens](#) • May 18, 2012 • [San Diego](#) 0 Comments



Adam Kantor (center) and company
in *Nobody Loves You*
(© Henry DiRocco)

Everyone wants to find true love, experience a happy ending and live happily ever after, but that is made more difficult with cameras trained on you 24/7 and producers editing the results to make it more dramatic -- well, if we're supposed to believe everything we see on reality television.

So it's not surprising that Itamar Moses and Gaby Alter have attempted to spoof the genre in their new musical, *Nobody Loves You*, now at San Diego's [The Old Globe](#), but it's difficult to spoof something that is already so heightened.

The work focuses on a reality/game show where contestants are coupled up for a week by the holder of Cupid's Scepter of Love and assigned to such venues as the Jello Room, Mirror Room, 3D Room, Pillow Fight Room, and the Hot Tub Room. In the episode's climatic scene, Crush or Be Crushed, contestants write the name of their crush on a Mix CD, and the person unlucky enough not to receive one is told by the overly jovial, word-challenged host (Heath Calvert, earning a lot of laughs) to pack their bags "because Nobody Loves You" Jeff (Adam Kantor) sends in an angry audition tape after his live-in girlfriend Tanya (Nicole Lewis) finally leaves him and says she's applying to be on the show. Producer Nina (Lewis again) likes Jeff's attitude and casts him, even though Tanya wasn't cast. But Jeff decides to stay and research material for his Ontology dissertation on "Reality versus Perception."

Soon, we get to meet five of the season's 15 contestants. Christian (Kelsey Kurz), who is a trying to come to grips with his lust for women and his love for God, finds himself attracted to alcoholic party girl Megan (Lauren Molina). Their hot tub duet, "Come On In," is the comic and musical highlight of the show,



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Relationship doormat Samantha (Kate Morgan Chadwick) finds herself drawn to narcissistic Dominic (Alex Brightman, who pulls off a trifecta with characterizations, including stoner Chazz and Jenny's gay, tweeting roommate, Evan).

Meanwhile, reality and logic go out the door when Jeff starts spending most of his time in the Control Room developing a real relationship with the show's production assistant, Jenny (Jenni Barber). The actors deliver naturalistic performances that seem out of place in this mostly madcap milieu.

Director Michelle Tattenbaum's staging is limited by the intimate theater-in-the-square space, and so we hear more than see most of the fun elements. In fact, musical Director Vadim Feichtner leads the five-piece band from under the stage.

The score is mostly generic rock and definitely loud -- so much so, that the cast has to use face mics to be heard above the din in a theater that is all of five rows deep. Indeed, anyone above age 25 should be advised to bring ear plugs -- and perhaps check their minds at the door.



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THEATER

A reality check in the name of love

Is there anything more played-out than reality TV? And yet it won't go away. Its longevity is rivaled only by its inanity. So, a parody of reality television seems superfluous. Nevertheless, reality TV is getting the send-up treatment at the Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, which is hosting the world-premiere musical comedy *Nobody Loves You*.

Drawing from *The Real World*, *Survivor* and any number of reality dating shows, *Nobody Loves You* posits after much song, dance and wisecracks that the only love that matters is the real thing; what's manufactured for voyeuristic cameras and equally voyeuristic TV viewers is all phony baloney. The title of this musical's fictitious reality show is "Nobody Loves You." The cynicism mirrors that of our hero, Jeff (Adam Kantor), who becomes a contestant on a program he despises just to make a point with his ex-girlfriend. Of course, he falls for someone else—not one of the other contestants, but Jenny (Jenni Barber), an assistant-producer type. They meet cute and end up that way.

Itamar Moses' story is full of fun and behind-the-scenes frolic, though it's obvious from the early-going that two of the other contestants, Christian and Megan, are far more interesting than Jeff and Jenni. Christian (Kelsey Kurz) is an aptly named holy

HENRY DIROCCO



KELSEY KURZ AND LAUREN MOLINA

roller, and Megan (Lauren Molina) has a body made for sin. Their contradictions are no match for their chemistry—the hot-tub-seduction song "Come On In" is just one of their hilarious moments together. Another peripheral character, Jenny's gay roommate Evan (Alex Brightman), is *Nobody Loves You*'s funniest and most outrageous (albeit most overdrawn) character. He even outdoes the antics of Heath Calvert as the reality show's posturing host Byron. Evan's hysterical "The Twitter Song" is worth

tweeting about.

Gaby Alter's music and lyrics are glib and, for the most part, not too mushy ("Jeff's Confessional" notwithstanding). There's no question that *Nobody Loves You* is a likable, if fluffy, night at the theater. The whole "reality" metaphor may be labored, but love conquers all, and, in the end, isn't that what matters?

Nobody Loves You runs through June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at the Old Globe in Balboa Park. \$29 and up. oldglobe.org

—David L. Coddon

Write to davidc@sdcitybeat.com
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Wednesday, May 23, 2012

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Old Globe's 'Nobody Loves You' is a reality check

World-premiere musical tops our coverage of plays in local production

By [David L. Coddon](#)

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Kelsey Kurz and Lauren Molina
 - Photo by Henry DiRocco

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Itamar Moses' story is full of fun and behind-the-scenes frolic, though it's obvious from the early-going that two of the other contestants, Christian and Megan, are far more interesting than Jeff and Jenni. Christian (Kelsey Kurz) is an aptly named holy roller, and Megan (Lauren Molina) has a body made for sin. Their contradictions are no match for their chemistry—the hot-tubseduction song "Come On In" is just one of their hilarious moments together. Another peripheral character, Jenny's gay roommate Evan (Alex Brightman), is *Nobody Loves You's* funniest and most outrageous (albeit most overdrawn) character. He even outdoes the antics of Heath Calvert as the reality show's posturing host Byron. Evan's hysterical "The Twitter Song" is worth tweeting about.

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Write to davidc@sdcitybeat.com

Opening

A5678: A Musical Revue: Musical theater at its most meta, this is a revival of a play that opened in the '70s. The action centers on a cast of a play during the two hours before curtain. Opens May 24 at Welk Resorts Theatre in Escondido.

Coming Attractions: In this comedy, the proprietor of a hotel that had once catered to celebrities who wanted to get away from prying eyes has died, and some colorful folks have come to pay their respects. Opens May 25 at Moxie Theatre in Rolando.

California Suite: Neil Simon's comedy is made up of four playlets, each about visitors to the Beverly Hills hotel—from New York, Philly, Chicago and London. Opens May 26 (preview night is May 25) at Scripps Ranch Theatre.

Dirty Blonde: An aspiring actress on an annual trek to Mae West's gravesite meets a film librarian who shares a devotion to the iconic sex symbol. Produced by Cygnet Theatre, it's currently in previews and opens on May 26 at The Old Town Theatre.

Two by Pinter: The Lover and The Dumb Waiter: A couple of '50s- and '60s-era one-acts by acclaimed British playwright Harold Pinter. Opens in previews on May 23; opens in earnest on May 26 at North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach.

Now Playing

Grease: You know the story: Boy meets girl. Boy gets girl. Boy pretends not to like girl. Girl pretends to be slutty to get boy back. Singing. Dancing. The '50s. Through May 26 at OnStage Playhouse in Chula Vista.

Brownie Points: Deborah Gilmour Smyth directs the Southern California premiere of this new play about five women who discover themselves and each other while on a field trip with their daughters, who are never seen by the audience. Through May 27 at Lamb's Players Theatre in Coronado.



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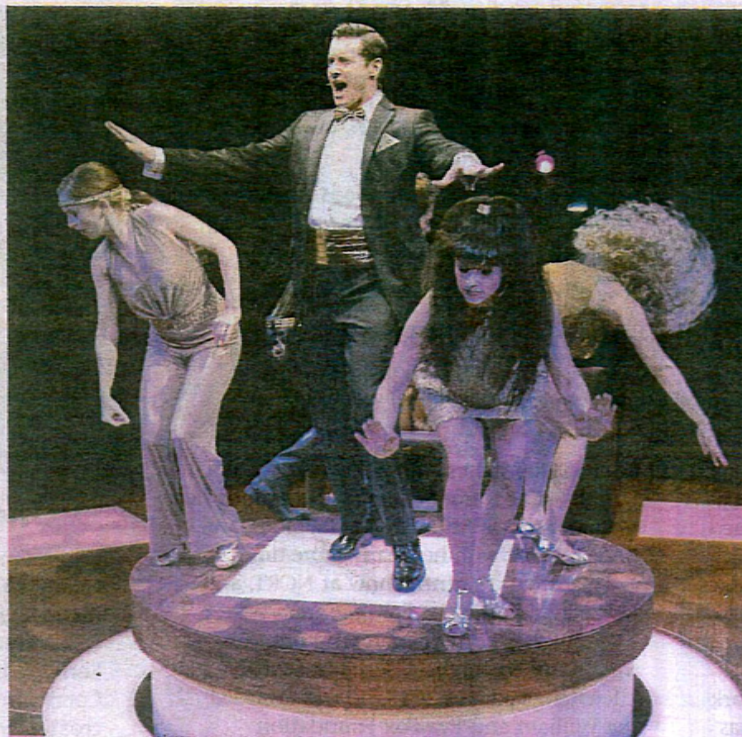
Let's Review

BY DIANA SAENGER

Those who don't care for reality TV shows, as well as those who are hooked on them, will thoroughly enjoy the spoof "Nobody Loves You," a fun, hip musical premiering in the Globe Theatre's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

Contestants are chosen for a reality TV show where they hope to find their soul mate. Instead, each one must learn something about themselves that will open the door to who is really the right match for him/her.

Jeff (Adam Kantor) and Tanya (Nicole Lewis) are roommates. He's into his philosophy dissertation and always has his nose stuck in a book. Jeff is aghast that Tanya loves watching the reality show "Nobody Loves You" where one person gets kicked off the show every week to the catch phrase, "Nobody loves YOU!"



But Tanya is so enamored by the program it leads her to realize that she and Jeff have nothing in common. She moves out, telling him she's going to audition for the show to find the RIGHT guy. Jeff pines for his lost love until he gets the idea to tryout for the show and win her back.

Show host (and cliché) Byron (Heath Calvert) bursts onto the stage singing the theme song "Nobody Loves

You," whose lyrics explain the parameters of the show. With help from his producer, Jenny, (Jenni Barber) one by one, the contestants are selected.

Among those searching for true love is Megan (Lauren Molina) a sexy gal who may find no one in this group who can cope with her dark side. How could she be attracted to Christian (Kelsey Kurz) who really is Christian, and who

would never understand her wild ways? Kate Morgan Chadwick plays both Bonnie and Samantha, each longing for her perfect mate.

Alex Brightman, who plays Dominic and Chazz, also portrays a frenzied Evan who belts out his dilemmas as if he were a star on "Glee," to rousing applause every time.

Nicole Lewis also portrays Zenobia, and show staffer Nina, who holds up the job



Left: Kate Morgan Chadwick, Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber and Lauren Molina in 'Nobody Loves You' at The Old Globe Theatre.

Above: Jenni Barber (Jenny) and Adam Kantor (Jeff) share a moment. PHOTOS BY HENRY DIROCCO

with every song and dance routine. She knows how to tell potential contestants just what they want to hear. Calvert steals most of the show as the debonair host in black attire who sings and dances like Hugh Jackman's twin.

The energetic music by Gaby Alter, with zany book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, steers every amusing scene in this comedy.

The cast is great, and

If you go

■ **What:** Musical premiere 'Nobody Loves You'

■ **When:** Now - June 17

■ **Where:**
The Old Globe Theatre's
Sheryl and Harvey
White Theatre, 1363 Old
Globe Way, Balboa Park

■ **Tickets:** Start at \$29

■ **Box Office:**
(619) 231-1941

■ **Website:**
TheOldGlobe.org

Adam Kantor nails his character so well, he brings a lot of depth to the fanciful premise. His emotional angst is worn on his shoulder, but his optimism when he discovers a love he wasn't looking for, sparkles through every song, like "Jeff's Confessional" and "I Love You For Real."

Choreography by Mandy Moore ("So You Think You Can Dance," "American Idol," "Dancing with the Stars,") is a nice blend of skill and entertainment. Michelle Tattenbaum's direction assures a funny romantic romp that provides a great night of entertainment.

Reality TV rocks in Nobody Loves You at The Old Globe

**By Diana Saenger
Let's Review!**

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Heath Calvert, Kate Morgan
Chadwick, Jenni Barber and
Lauren Molina in 'Nobody Loves
You,' at The Old Globe through
June 17. Henry DiRocco.

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Alex Brightman, who plays Dominic and Chazz, also portrays a frenzied Evan who belts out his dilemmas as if he were a star on “Glee,” to rousing applause every time.
Nicole Lewis also portrays Zenobia and Nina, a show staffer who holds up the job with every song and dance routine. She knows how to tell potential contestants just what they want to hear. Calvert steals most of the show as the debonair host in black attire who sings and dances like Hugh Jackman’s twin.

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If you go

“Nobody Loves You”

Now – June 17, 2012

The Globe Theatre’s Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre

1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park

Tickets: start at \$29, (619) 23-GLOBE or www.TheOldGlobe.org

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Nobody Loves You

by Rodnev Rodriquez

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Adam Kantor as Jeff (center) and the cast of "Nobody Loves You" (Source: The Old Globe)

From "The Dating Game" to MTV's "Singled Out" to "The Bachelor" and soon-to-air shows like "The Choice" and "Take Me Out," television has never been far from the ready-made romance genre. It appears that our curiosity into the intimate lives of others still burns.

Playing on this innate inquisitiveness comes a new musical from Gaby Alter and Itamar Moses, **"Nobody Loves You,"** playing at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at the Old Globe in Balboa Park.

Based in the modern day, "Nobody Loves You" explores the world of reality show matchmaking and tries to determine just how real reality TV is. Complete with a pop-inspired (albeit fairly forgettable) score, this show bursts at the seams with

gags and one-liners about everything from hash to hashtags.

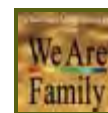
Jeff (Adam Kantor) is the studious stud du jour who finds himself fighting for the love of his departed girlfriend. That fight takes him onto the set of her favorite television reality show, "Nobody Loves You." Expecting to find his old flame, Jeff finds a delightfully over-the-top cast of characters instead including the vacant host Byron, played fatuously and fabulously by Heath Calvert.

Jeff reluctantly agrees to stay on the show as a way to gather research for a dissertation with which he has been struggling. An unwilling participant and outcast among the show's contestants, Jeff finds himself carried on week after week with his disconnect being mistaken for a playing hard-to-get strategy.

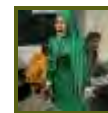
A romantic comedy, "Nobody Loves You" is certainly filled with both love and laughs. A brilliant ensemble cast...drives the wit that delivers a gut punch to the audience and keeps them laughing.

Finding every moment he can away from the camera, he befriends and then bewitches a production assistant named Jenny (Jenni Barber). The more Jeff rails against the structure of the show, the more he finds himself wrapped up in it. Being loved by no one and then suddenly being loved by millions, Jeff has to decide whether the love of one can be enough.

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A romantic comedy, "Nobody Loves You" is certainly filled with both love and laughs. A brilliant ensemble cast including Nicole Lewis as the TV show's producer, Kate Morgan Chadwick as the repressed school teacher, Lauren Molina as the trashy slut, and Kelsey Kurz as the saintly do-gooder Christian drives the wit that delivers a gut punch to the audience and keeps them laughing out the door.

But it is Alex Brightman who steals the show. Playing Jeff's stoner roommate, then a grease-ball show contestant, and finally the prancing gay BFF of Jenny, Brightman nailed the only truly memorable song of the show that left several theatre-goers Googling the word 'hashtag' afterwards.

Michelle Tattenbaum guides this production well and Michael Schweikardt's scene and Tyler Micoeau's lighting design give the show a "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" kind of feel.

Emily Pepper's costuming had me wondering just where an adult-sized onesie can be found. Music director Vadim Feichtner and sound designer Paul Peterson brought a natural element to two often over-produced foundations of any musical.

A strong book and excellent cast leave plenty to love of "Nobody Loves You." Though I wouldn't be giving this show my own ultimate mix CD, it is a bedfellow with whom I was happy to share an evening.

"Nobody Loves You" runs through June 17 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at The Old Globe, Balboa Park in San Diego. For info or tickets call 619-23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org

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Heath Calvert (foreground) and the cast of "Nobody Loves You" at the Old Globe

Photo by Henry DiRocco

'Nobody Loves You'

Music and lyrics by Gaby Alter

Book and lyrics by Itamar Moses

Directed by Michelle Tattenbaum

Choreography by Mandy Moore

[The Old Globe Theatre \(http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?PID=9250\)](http://www.theoldglobe.org/tickets/production.aspx?PID=9250), San Diego

May 9 to June 17, 2012

Here's my problem with musicals: they repeat themselves. You watch a scene and then you get a song about the scene you just watched. Plot progression stops for a rehash. So imagine my delight that "Nobody Loves You" uses their singing interludes, and there are 19 of them, to advance the story. And that's not even the thing I liked most.

Smartly written, funny, acutely observed, "Nobody Loves You" hits all its marks. Jeff (Adam Kantor) is a



pedantic philosophy Ph.D. candidate who detests reality (and probably most other) television as an existential black hole. However, his girlfriend, Tanya

(Nicole Lewis), is hooked on fading reality phenomenon "Nobody Loves You." She indulges while he ridicules. No surprise that Tanya leaves him. In a fit of angst, Jeff applies to appear on the show.

The play itself is a wonderful sendup of "The Bachelor" and other reality staples. Couples are placed in hot tubs and mirrored rooms to warm them up for the camera. They give personal testimonials, which are replayed at the most inopportune times. Awkwardness is encouraged. Byron (Heath Calvert), the emcee, is vapid but affable. He gins up enthusiasm with hilarious promo lines and on-air histrionics.

Jeff's menagerie of fellow cast members include Samantha (Kate Morgan Chadwick), who always gets her heart broken; Dominic (Alex Brightman), who has no interest in any relationship beyond a sexual one; Christian (Kelsey Kurz), who *is* actually an evangelical Christian; and Megan (Lauren Molina), an oversexed drunk. The cast rounds out with the producer, Nina (also Lewis) and her assistant Jenny (Jenni Barber).

Ensnared in the reality show, Jeff spends most of his time ridiculing the medium and avoiding the cameras, which Byron interprets as strategy. In reality, Jeff is taking notes for his dissertation and inadvertently courting Jenny. And yet, the limelight has a strange attraction.

Everything about this play works. The cast is brilliant. Special kudos to Brightman, who does a good job as Dominic but is hilarious as Jeff and Jenny's respective roommates, Chazz and Evan. Ditto Calvert, who makes Byron likable despite the empty tuxedo.

The songs are even funnier, and often more insightful, than the dialogue. "So Much to Hate," "The Obstacle Course of Love," and "Crush Ceremony" stand out. At times, it seems like writers Gaby Alter and Itamar Moses are channeling Noel Coward.

The choreography by dance icon Mandy Moore is the perfect complement—entertaining, funny, even moving at times. Michelle Tattenbaum's direction melds this ensemble of often over-the-top characters into a comedy machine and even finds room for poignant touches. The set, including drop-down cameras, evokes a sound stage but does just fine as various living rooms.

Have you ever watched television and laughed so hard you missed some of the dialogue? Just remember, there's no TiVo in theater.

Josh Baxt

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THEATER REVIEW: "Nobody Loves You" has world premiere at The Old Globe | VIDEO

JEAN LOWERISON - SDGLN THEATER CRITIC

May 19th, 2012

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If the thought of infiltrating a reality TV dating show in order to expose all its phoniness doesn't tickle your funnybone, you don't live in playwright Itamar Moses' universe.

Moses did his research in front of the idiot box, watching episodes of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," then teamed up on lyrics with old friend Gaby Alter while Alter wrote the rock-inspired songs for the new musical "Nobody Loves You."

Another old friend, Michelle Tattenbaum (now a neighbor in Brooklyn), was tapped to direct the world premiere, which plays through June 17 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

Here's the setup: Philosophy grad student Jeff (Adam Kantor) drives girlfriend Tanya (Nicole Lewis) away with his aversion to her favorite reality dating show. She decides to leave him and try to get on the show to find the man "who is already the guy I want you to be."

He follows, in an attempt to get her back, and wouldn't you know, he's picked for the show (What a PR coup! A guy who hates reality TV!) while Tanya does not make the cut.

He's about to stomp off in a self-righteous huff when the notion of using the experience as a blockbuster dissertation topic captivates him. He stays.

What follows is a fitfully charming, mostly amusing parody of this particular flavor of reality show in which host Byron (Heath Calvert) sets up and announces the pairings and activities while Jeff records trenchant comments on his cell phone ... until the above-it-all academic finds himself seduced by fame ("Being famous feels like love").

The show benefits from intriguing characters who bond in odd combinations, leading to awkwardly goofy scenes like the one in which seen-it-all alcoholic Megan (Lauren Molina) tries to drag straight-arrow (and aptly named) Christian (Kelsey Kurz) into the hot tub.

[ENLARGE](#)

Photo credit: Henry DiRocco

Jenni Barber as Jenny and Adam Kantor as Jeff in the world premiere musical "Nobody Loves You."

And of course, there's the obligatory embarrassment of the Crush Ceremony, in which one person is eliminated each night.

It's difficult to know whether any of the contestants on the "real" shows actually believe any kind of lasting liaison will – or could – be made in this ultra-hyped and phony atmosphere. Statistics indicate that 90% of the engagements so made result in splits, but Moses has another point to make: Do we even know reality when we see it? Do we care?

I have a confession: This is not my kind of reality show – give me the late lamented "Queer Eye For The Straight Guy" or "What Not To Wear" anytime.

But Moses and his collaborators have found their way to an engaging and entertaining show. The excellent cast sings, dances and acts well, the songs are clever and the under-the-stage band is fine. The lone problem is that the decibel level needs to be lowered.

What happens to Jeff? You'll have to go and find out for yourself.

Details

World premiere of "Nobody Loves You" plays through June 17 at the Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park.

Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 pm; Thursday and Friday at 8 pm; Saturday at 2 and 8 pm; Sunday at 2 and 7 pm.

For tickets, call (619) 234-5623 or visit [HERE](#).

To read more reviews by SDGLN Theater Critic Jean Lowerison, click [HERE](#).

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[Reviews: Film/Theater - NYC, LA, SF, Chicago – Stage and Cinema](#)

Los Angeles Theater Review: NOBODY LOVES YOU (Old Globe in San Diego)

by [Tony Frankel](#) on May 23, 2012

in [Theater-Regional](#)



MUSICAL TAKES ON REALITY TV

What better place than the stage to examine the phenomenon of Reality TV? One would hope that by now, Americans would be wise to the fact that these shows, whether romantic or adventurous, are not reality at all. In the new musical *Nobody Loves You*, the protagonist Jeff says that “[these shows] are a toxic lie about how your life is supposed to feel, with black and white choices, and conflicts that get neatly resolved, and a soundtrack, but, guess what, real choices aren’t so clear, and real conflicts aren’t easily resolved.” He’s right. On *Survivor*, contestants gruelingly compete for a million dollars in the jungle, but there is a catering truck just off camera. On the dating front, shows such as *The Bachelor* and *The Cougar* have contestants vie for the heart of a hot, rich guy or a MILF, but dialogue that would tell the true story is edited out by unscrupulous producers. Even with the knowledge that 90% of the couples who get engaged on *The Bachelor* eventually break-up within a year, addicts continue to watch obsessively these inauthentic tales of faultless romance.



The exciting and insightful playwright Itamar Moses (*Completeness*) has hit upon a fascinating concept, one which satirizes those who watch, those who produce, and those who participate in a Reality TV dating show called “Nobody Loves You” – sort of a mash-up between *Fear Factor*, *Big Brother*, and *The Bachelor*.

When a Reality TV-hating guy named Jeff (Adam Kantor) applies to be on the show in order to woo another contestant – specifically, his ex-girlfriend – his brash cynicism about the process intrigues the producer Nina (Nicole Lewis). Jeff’s ex doesn’t make the cut, but he remains on the show as a contestant. He becomes a non-believing observer, recording notes as fodder for his Ontology dissertation. The twist is that Jeff falls for the assistant producer Jenny (Jenni Barber), and their newfound romance inadvertently becomes material for the devious producer. Now Jeff must grapple with his own views on reality versus perception.



Moses approached his friend Gaby Alter to compose the songs and co-write the lyrics. While their musical is extremely likeable, engaging and entertaining, it remains an uneven effort. More character work needs to be done in order for *Nobody Loves You* to contain the proper balance between spoof and romantic musical. Even so, the World Premiere project, which opened this week at the Old Globe, stands to become an old-fashioned musical comedy hit for the Twitter generation. In order for the writers to find wider appeal, however, their songs need to take a cue from another musical that co-opted television: *Avenue Q*, the songs of which contain bouncier melodies and tighter lyrics. If Moses and Alter can achieve songs of that caliber, then this musical will have a sharper take on the disparity between love according to Reality TV and the reality of adult relationships. My big concern is Alter, whose music can

safely be called bright but unforgettable pop/rock; the lyrics may have hooks, but the melodies do not.

The boys are definitely on the way with a song that exposes universal truths while developing character and plot: When Jeff first encounters Jenny in a control room, their romance blossoms as they acknowledge there is “So Much to Hate.”

JEFF: “I HATE MOVIES WITH ROMANTIC CLICHÉS THAT DESCRIBE LOVE AS THIS EARTHLY PARADISE FOR TWO”

JENNY: “I HATE GUYS THAT USE THEIR HATRED OF CLICHÉS AS AN EXCUSE NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT’S NICE FOR YOU”

JEFF & JENNY: “I HATE SONGS ABOUT LOVE; I’M SO SICK OF UNREALISTIC IDEAS ABOUT PASSION AND FATE; THERE’S SO MUCH TO HATE”



Yes, the lyrics are a bit clunky, but they suit the light-rock score, which can accommodate the lyrics by squishing in a bunch of sixteenth notes when necessary. However, Moses’ dialogue is shrewd, funny, naturalistic, and loaded with juicy philosophical commentary on social media/television, and the rabid fans who follow Reality TV. His book is inhabited with stereotype, musical comedy-thin characters, but his most engaging creations are the obvious send-ups, specifically the boneheaded and puerile host Byron (played with unctuous vacancy by Heath Calvert), and the twenty-something contestants: the booze-swilling slut Megan (the ridiculously believable Lauren Molina), the religious, right-minded hunk, aptly named Christian (a fine Kelsey Kurz) and the untrusting, self-doubting schoolteacher Samantha (a vulnerable Kate Morgan Chadwick).



Alex Brightman gives a tour de force performance in three separate roles, all of which validate Moses' ability to create flesh-and-blood characters while spoofing stereotypes: Dominic (the contestant wary of crazy chicks), Chazz (Jeff's slacker roomie), and Evan (Jenny's obsessive, nosy gay roommate). Watching the multi-faceted Brightman slip these characters on and off is thrilling. Brightman and other actors are proof-positive that director Michelle Tattenbaum added a good deal of comedy with character-specific choices; her in-the-round staging is aided by choreographer Mandy Moore, whose work on *So You Think You Can Dance* perfectly suits her to this material.



Two very important characters are less successful because they appear neither as spoofs nor fully-fleshed people: the passive-aggressive, manipulative producer Nina, and, most importantly, the romantic lead, Jenny (an authentic portrayal by Barber). After six songs introducing likeable, zany characters, Jenny's first number is "Another Season," in which she rues her situation as an assistant on a show she hates (she'd rather be a filmmaker). I say this with love, but Who Cares? Because the character is neither kooky nor sympathetic, we are never invested in her outcome. Later, in a duet with Jeff ("I Think I Love You For Real"), the audience squirmed with impatience because the song, like her character, is simply uninteresting and, sadly, boring:

"I WAS ALWAYS SCARED TO TRY AND MAKE MY ART
HIDING MY OWN VISION WAS JUST A WAY OF HIDING ME
AND NOW I SEE I'VE DONE THE SAME THING WITH MY HEART
BURYING IT DEEP INSIDE WHERE NO ONE ELSE COULD SEE"



Reality TV is fake, but people watch it because it feels real to them; as such, they are inspired and filled with hope. The most remarkable thing about this World Premiere outing is that we actually believe there could be a show like “Nobody Loves You,” where dating contestants live in the same house and participate in Ropes Courses, Paintballing and Couple-Swapping. We believe the characters who participate in and watch the show. It feels real to us. Some of the songs also feel real, such as the theme to *Nobody Loves You* and the duet between Christian and Megan in the hut tub (“Come On In”); other numbers seem weak and untruthful (“Jeff’s Confessional”). And although we believe in his journey, the romance between Jeff and Jenny rings false, something that would never happen in the real world of fake Reality TV.

photos by Henry DiRocco

Nobody Loves You

Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at The Old Globe in San Diego (Regional Theater)

scheduled to end on June 17

for tickets, call (619) 23-GLOBE or visit <http://www.theoldglobe.org/>

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“Nobody Loves You” – The Old Globe

Most of us have a love-hate relationship with reality TV. We openly disparage it, but secretly can't get enough of it. We probably all agree that it's tacky to the max, yet it's strangely addictive. We're willing to suspend disbelief and rational thinking, to accept this as some form of reality, though exactly what part is really real is never quite clear. Honestly, I'm not a fan. And I didn't have particularly high hopes for a musical that centers on a reality TV dating show.

But “Nobody Loves You” is full of surprises and unadulterated fun. And a tiny touch of insight, of the television type. We see that “Fame feels a lot like love.” But “a million strangers’ stares don’t mean as much as one person who cares.”

These are the lessons learned by the central character, Jeff, a doctoral student who happens to be writing a philosophy dissertation on the nature of reality. When his girlfriend dumps him and says she's going off to audition for her favorite TV show, “Nobody Loves You,” he runs after her, onto the show, hoping to win her back. It turns out that she doesn't get chosen, but Jeff does. He stays on, viewing it as a fertile research opportunity.

He disdains the whole concept, calling it “a toxic lie.” He goes negatively through the increasingly absurd, forced social activities, from the hot tub to the water-slide to the jello room. Jeff takes pedantically critical notes on the whole experience. The more he repudiates this false perception of reality, the more the audience eats it up. The slumping ratings soar.

Inevitably, Jeff gets sucked into the celebrity vortex, even as he finds what appears to be true love in similarly cynical Jenny, a production assistant on the show. Do they play their relationship out onscreen, or can they keep it real?

These are the profound metaphysical concerns of this charmingly spoofy Old Globe world premiere. The creators are hip and smart. Former Globe playwright-in-residence Itamar Moses has captured the glibness, faux-glam and endless clichés of this TV phenom. The writer's former Yale classmates, composer/co-lyricist Gaby Alter and director Michelle Tattenbaum, contribute a melodic pop-rock score and brisk,

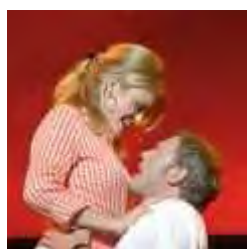
inventive staging, backed by an excellent, unseen band.

Most of the talented, eight-member cast play multiple roles, to rollicking effect. Of course, the game show host is unspeakably smarmy, and the contestants are stereotypes: the needy professional woman; the heavy-drinking, oversexed party girl; the self-styled lothario; even an upright, uptight Christian. If they're not hooked up with someone, they're voted off the show, told that 'Nobody Loves Them.' It's harsh, but it has a coterie of devotees, most hilariously, a prancy guy in a PJ onesie.

The new musical isn't deep, but it is entertaining. And, like the silly shows it satirizes, inexplicably irresistible.

"Nobody Loves You" continues through June 17 at the Old Globe.

© 2012 Pat Launer



"Hands on a Hardbody" – La Jolla Playhouse

'If you love something, keep your hands on it.'

That's the message of the commissioned world premiere musical at the La Jolla Playhouse. The provocative title isn't new; "Hands on a Hardbody" is actually the name of the contest and the documentary that inspired the musical.

In the mid-'90s, a Nissan dealership in Longview, Texas, devised a highly unusual marketing campaign -- an endurance competition, all about the last one standing. Whoever can keep a hand on a hardbody truck the longest gets to drive the vehicle home.

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Doug Wright actually hired a detective to track down the real contestants who appeared in the 1997 film. The eight they found gave willing permission to use their names and stories. Then Wright embellished, added a few fictional characters and voilà! A musical about desperation and the ever-elusive American Dream.

These folks are all adrift, distressed, seriously down on their luck. Most are unemployed; some are living on oatmeal and food stamps. The truck, they're convinced, will turn their lives around.

The stage contest lasts longer than the real-life ones did – nearly six days! – with only a 15-minute break every six hours, which induces not only exhaustion and sleep deprivation, but numbness, disorientation, hallucinations, even a touch of insanity.

San Diego Uptown News

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Teachers protest a vote to lay off 1,500 school workers

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New vibrations on Fifth Avenue at Avenue 5

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"Nobody Loves You"

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The restored Josh Delvalle House

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Editorial / Letters



(left) Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher and Congressman Bob Filner at the May 17 debate. (Photo by Margie M. Palmer)

Fletcher, Filner debate at Ken-Tal Planning Group forum

Margie M. Palmer
SDUN Editor

Approximately 150 people attended a debate between Congressman Bob Filner and Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher at the Kensington Community Church on May 17. Sponsored by the Kensington Talmadge Planning Group (Ken-Tal), the forum allowed two of the city's four mayoral hopefuls to square off in debate and answer questions relating to their plans, visions and hopes for San Diego.

The race's two other candidates, Council-

member Carl DeMaio and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, were invited but unable to attend.

The debate topics primarily covered the candidates' histories and the potential relationship between the mayor's office and the City Council, as well as education and the economy.

During the debate, Filner highlighted his years in politics and legislation.

"There is not anyone else in this election who has the experience or the background I have," Filner said. "I have served on the San Diego

see Debate, page 7



Fred Schenk of the Casey Gerry firm in Bankers Hill. (Photo courtesy of Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP)

Bankers Hill firm to serve on litigation committee against NFL

Uptown lawyers are only San Diego representatives involved in federal court case for player safety

By Monica Garske
SDUN Reporter

Lawyers from the firm Casey Gerry Schenk Francavilla Blatt & Penfield, LLP, located at 110 Laurel St. in Bankers Hill, are contributing their expertise to a federal committee in litigation against the National Football League (NFL).

The Casey Gerry firm has been appointed by U.S. District Judge Anita Brody to serve on the Plaintiff's Steering Committee (PSC), which is developing a lawsuit against the NFL on behalf of retired players. The suit alleges multiple concussions can lead to long-term, traumatic brain injuries.

see NFL, page 3

Harvey Milk Street unveiled in Hillcrest

Commissioner Ramirez: street says 'Welcome home Harvey, and job well done'

By Ashley Mackin
SDUN Editor

San Diego became the first city in the nation to honor Harvey Milk by naming a street after the slain civil rights leader. Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man elected to public office in California when he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The dedication took place Tuesday, May 22, acknowledged as Harvey Milk Day, which would have been Milk's 82nd birthday.

Formerly called Blaine Avenue, the street spans two blocks between Cleveland Avenue and Centre Street, parallel to University Avenue in Hillcrest. It was renamed at a ceremony featuring speakers from local government, leaders in the LGBT community and Milk's nephew and chair of the Harvey Milk Foundation, Stuart Milk.

"Today, our community is making history by naming the first street in the world for the civil rights hero, LGBT pioneer and American icon, Harvey Milk," said District Three Council member Todd Gloria at the unveiling.

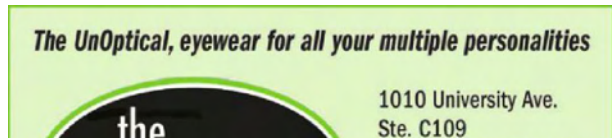
City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez said Harvey Milk was stationed in San Diego while serving in the Navy and was honorably discharged at the rank of lieutenant. Ramirez said Harvey Milk was "concerned not only about the civil rights of gays and lesbians but the struggle of the farm workers; the hardships of seniors and the elderly; the plight of women; [and] the struggle of small business owners."

Ramirez, along with several other speakers, recognized Harvey Milk as a civil rights leader for the LGBT community and beyond. "Harvey Milk is a true American civil rights icon and hero for all people believing in social justice," he said. "Not only a hero in our great nation, but a hero that is emerging as a symbol around

see Street, page 5



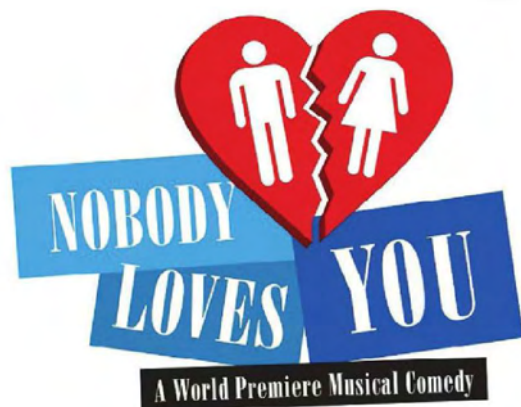
Stuart Milk, nephew of Harvey Milk, spoke at the unveiling of Harvey Milk Street in Hillcrest. (Photo by Daniel Solomon, image editing by Eddie Ramos)





Pinback

p.19



By Patricia Morris Buckley
SDUN Theater Critic

Usually, reality shows are not the best way to get a date in a romantic mood. "Nobody Loves You," a new musical premiering at the Old Globe Theatre, is the exception to the rule.

This eight-person show is not-too-sweet, wildly entertaining and filled with catchy tunes. It also tries to sneak in commentary about reality TV, but never goes deep enough to make any lasting statement. The only criticism that digs below the layers of reality show nonsense is the

lyric, "being famous feels like love." Kim Kardashian, with her lightning short marriage, would probably agree.

The story opens with the breakup of Ph.D. candidate Jeff and his live-in love Tanya, who are obviously mismatched. The trouble comes to a head when she wants Jeff to watch the reality show "Nobody Loves You" and he refuses with biting sarcasm. To get Tanya back, he decides to go on the show after hearing she auditioned.

Selected for his dismissive wit, Jeff discovers Tanya turned down the show because she has a new



Heath Calvert as Byron (bottom) with Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz in the world premiere musical "Nobody Loves You." (Photo by Henry DiRocco).

guy. Still, he sees his participation as an opportunity to work on his doctoral thesis on the difference

between reality and fiction.

"Nobody Loves You" borrows haphazardly from a number of

"NOBODY LOVES YOU"

Where: The Old Globe Theatre

1363 Old Globe Way

When: Through June 17

Tickets: Start at \$29

Info: 619-23-GLOBE

Web: theoldglobe.org

reality shows in such a way it could never really work as a game show, but that doesn't make it any less hilarious or supercilious. The parody is done with such razor-like precision that it slices through our disbelief.

The excellent cast goes far in selling the premise. Heath Calvert plays the role of reality show host Byron with just the right mix of pretentiousness, piled on charm and barely contained professionalism.

Adam Cantor is the acerbic Jeff; the one who grows the most, yet never truly changes. Cantor nicely balances the character's witty insights and the emotional blindness. As his potential love interest Jenny, Jenni Barber fights hard to make a milk toast character interesting, which is essential for the show to work. We have to believe these two are really falling for each other, and not for fame, which Cantor and Barber certainly do.

Alex Brightman, one actor who plays three roles, practically steals the show. It helps that he's given the best tune, "The Twitter Song," which has not yet escaped the soundtrack in my head. Nicole Lewis is also convincing in her three roles, including that of Tanya.

Gaby Alter and Itamar Moses (the latter once served as playwright-in-residence at The Globe) crafted a fun show that flows seamlessly. The characters are interesting, the conflict quite modern in flavor and the songs are traditional theater fare with an updated flare. Michelle Tattenbaum's direction keeps the story from being too saccharin sweet, but warm enough to be endearing.

I only have one major quibble with the plot. One pair on the reality show is Christian (who is a Christian) and Megan. Megan admits to being an alcoholic and Christian tells her he doesn't like it - but takes her back without any promise that she will get help. Even in the fiction of reality TV, I don't see that happening. If she at one point agreed to even think about getting help, it would be a less bitter pill to swallow.

As usual, The Old Globe's designs elements are well done. Mandy Moore's choreography is sharp. Michael Schweikardt's set made the in-the-round stage work. Emily Pepper's costumes and Tyler Micolesau's lights heighten the play's mood.

It's odd to tell someone to see a play about heartbreak, nationally aired embarrassment and reality shows as entertainment. But "Nobody Loves You" turns out to be a great date show. In fact, the title should be "Everyone Loves You." ♦

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Nobody Loves You

Posted: May 25th, 2012 | [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Balboa Park](#), [Feature](#), [Music](#), [Theater](#) | [No Comments](#)**By Patricia Morris Buckley | SDUN Theater Critic**

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View th
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SAN DIEGO

Regional Reviews by Bill Eadie

Nobody Loves You

The Old Globe

Also see Bill's review of [Hands on a Hardbody](#)

Two world premiere musicals opened in San Diego in the span of a week. Turns out that the second was the antidote to the first.

With La Jolla Playhouse's *Hands on a Hardbody*, I worried that reality television might be gaining a foothold in musical theatre. As fate would have it, the Old Globe's *Nobody Loves You* responds to that concern with a sharply observed satire of a reality television dating show.

Philosophy doctoral student Jeff (an appealing Adam Kantor) can't be bothered to put down work on his dissertation to watch his girlfriend Tanya's (Nicole Lewis) favorite TV show, "Nobody Loves You." Tanya gets mad and storms out, but not before revealing that she is planning to audition for the show in hopes of finding a replacement boyfriend. In despair, Jeff also auditions, in the process denouncing reality dating shows as fake and rigged. Only after Jeff is cast does he learn that Tanya wasn't picked to be on the show.



Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor

As might be expected, the rest of the reality show cast members turn out to be a collection of 20-something dating stereotypes. There's Megan (Lauren Molina), the good-time girl/slut; Samantha (Kate Morgan Chadwick), who desperately wants romance but who also has impossibly high standards; Dominic (Alex Brightman), who fancies himself a lady's man; and Christian (Kelsey Kurz), who is, well, Christian. But, there's also Jenny (Jenni Barber), a production assistant on the show who shares Jeff's opinion of it. Complications, as they say, ensue.

Playwright Itamar Moses knows these characters and the New York world they inhabit. He gets the way reality programs present fantasy versions of dating and romance. He also knows the limitations of the stereotypes his characters represent and manages not only to humanize them but also to encourage the audience to like each in some way. It doesn't hurt one bit that he's written a good many laugh-out-loud-funny lines in the process.

Composer Gaby Alter has written an appealing set of pop melodies for the talented cast to perform, and with Mr. Moses he has written lyrics that often speed by while still letting the audience in on the joke. For example, in "The Twitter Song," a gay fanboi (Mr. Brightman again) sings about the Twitter feed he is creating while watching one of the show's episodes, including the hashtags he's using to broaden his readership by invoking topics that Twitter

users might be following. It's convoluted, but totally on point with the potential for sophisticated uses of social media. It's also hilarious.

Most of the eight-member company plays multiple roles. Mr. Kantor's Jeff is the most conventional of the bunch, and his easy-going manner provides the anchor for what sometimes turns into inspired lunacy. Ms. Barber sings quite well but is perhaps too reticent as an actor (I had a similar concern about her performance in the Old Globe's production of the Burt Bacharach/Steven Sater musical *Some Lovers*). Mr. Brightman sparkles in particular as Jeff's scuzzy Monday-morning-quarterback roommate Chazz, as well as the aforementioned fanboi. Ms. Chadwick, Mr. Kurz, and Ms. Molina do a good job with finding qualities that will take them out of the stereotypes they are playing. Heath Calvert has the smarmy stupidity of the show's host down cold. Only Ms. Lewis needs to find a bit more depth to play in her portrayals of Jeff's girlfriend Tanya and the show's producer. Perhaps the script could give her a bit more help in this regard.

Director Michelle Tattenbaum has staged several of Mr. Moses' plays, and she knows how to put his humor across, as well as how to create small moments that add greatly to the overall effect. Scenic designer Michael Schweikardt and lighting designer Tyler Micoleau have created spaces around the smallish White Theatre stage that serve to set the characters apart or to bring them together. Emily Pepper's costumes are up-to-the-moment, and Paul Peterson's sound designed deftly blends the voices with the four-piece band playing underneath the stage.

It's a shame that this show's smaller scale may make a New York production problematic. This almost-perfect 90-minute musical deserves to be enjoyed well beyond its world premiere.

Through June 17, 2012, at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre on the Old Globe campus in San Diego's Balboa Park. Tickets (\$29 - \$72) are available online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, or by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE.

The Old Globe presents *Nobody Loves You*, Music and Lyrics by Gaby Alter, Book and Lyrics by Itamar Moses. Directed by Michelle Tattenbaum with Vadim Feichtner (Music Director), Mandy Moore (Choreography), Michael Schweikardt (Scenic Design), Emily Pepper (Costume Design), Tyler Micoleau (Lighting Design), Paul Peterson (Sound Design), Stephanie Klapper, CSA (Casting) and Peter Van Dyke (Stage Manager).

The cast includes Jenni Barber (Jenny), Alex Brightman (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), Heath Calvert (Byron), Kate Morgan Chadwick (Samantha, Bonnie), Adam Kantor (Jeff), Kelsey Kurz (Christian, Steve), Nicole Lewis (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and Lauren Molina (Megan).

Photo: Henry DiRocco

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Sunday, May 27, 2012

Two Reasons to Head to San Diego - Nobody Loves You and The Scottsboro Boys

Few things are more enjoyable for me than going to the theater, and it's even better when it gives me a reason to take a drive to San Diego, especially on a beautiful Southern California Saturday. The traffic is lighter on the weekend, people are more relaxed, and it reminds me why I choose to live here on the west coast in the first place. Those of you who also moved here from parts beyond know exactly what I mean. Fortunately, my latest road trip was another perfect drive to The Old Globe in San Diego's Balboa Park, this time to see two new musicals – *Nobody Loves You* and *The Scottsboro Boys*.



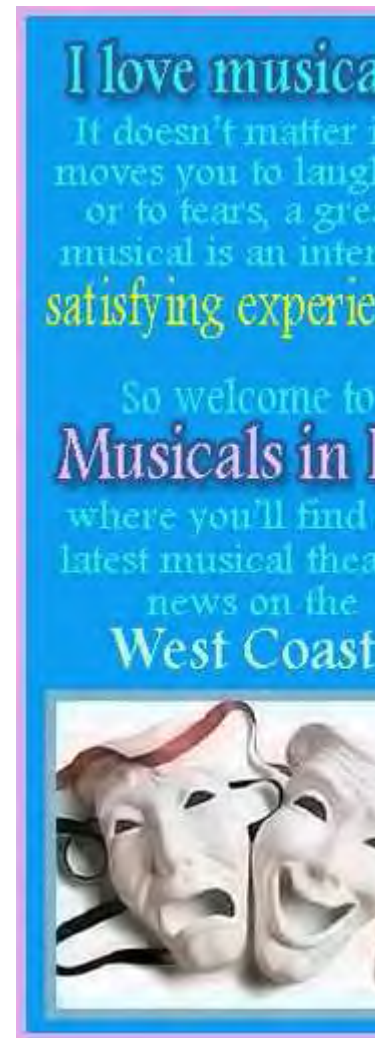


Adam Kantor as Jeff (center) and the cast of *Nobody Loves You*,

Photos by Henry DiRocco

At first glance the two appear to have nothing in common for their subject matter is not only worlds apart but anchored in different time periods as well. Itamar Moses and Gaby Alter's *Nobody Loves You* is a contemporary pop/rock musical that centers on the world of dating and reality television in which twenty-somethings search for love by competing in contests patterned after reality shows like *The Bachelor* and *Survivor*. *The Scottsboro Boys* is the true story of nine young African American men who were accused of rape in 1930s Alabama told as a minstrel show via the music & lyrics of Kander & Ebb and David Thompson's satiric libretto.

Though vastly different subjects told in completely different styles, a closer look shows that the two musicals share a common thread. Each deals with the idea of truth in reality, and how it can be manipulated into telling a different story. You'd think reality TV would at least have something to do with actual reality but the very name itself is a misnomer. What passes for reality is really a carefully edited version of the truth, creatively skewed to ensure that it will produce ratings. *Nobody Loves You* shows the best and worst of this false reality in all its comic glory yet without sacrificing any of its heart. It may poke fun but it does so with genuine charm and a highly entertaining score to help tell its story.

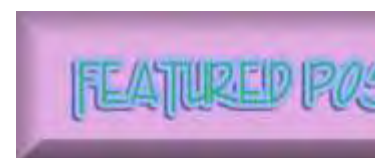


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Heath Calvert as Byron, Adam Kantor as Jeff and

Nicole Lewis as Nina

Here a typical group of romantic hopefuls compete to find love, but there's a twist. Among their ranks is a renegade who represents the skeptics of the world. Unlike the others, philosophy student Jeff (**Adam Kantor**) comes on the show in hopes of winning his ex-girlfriend back but finds she didn't make the cut in auditions. Surprisingly, he decides to stay when he realizes he's found the perfect topic for his ontology dissertation, and sets about to expose the "gaps between reality and what we might intrinsically be." As the rest of the contestants pair off and try to keep from being eliminated, Jeff remains aloof and condescending, until he ends up falling for the show's down-to-earth production assistant, Jenny (**Jenni Barber**), a twist that drives fans at home crazy with anticipation.

Michelle Tattenbaum gamely directs a first-rate cast full of recognizable characters. **Lauren Molina's** party girl pairs off with Christian hunk, Christian (**Kelsey Kurz**), who's saving himself for marriage. Her constant efforts to seduce him make for plenty of laughs, especially when she strips down to entice him in the hot tub in "Come on In." Samantha (**Kate Morgan Chadwick**) is so desperate for love that when her onscreen player-in-a-blazer Dominic (**Alex Brightman**) is eliminated she makes a play for Christian, and though it doesn't last, she manages to turn her fifteen minutes of fame into a lucrative speaker business and book deal. If one can't have love, one can at least be famous, right?



***A5678: A Musical Revue - Resorts, San Diego**

***The Addams Family - Pan Theatre, Hollywood**

***Aladdin, The Princess & The Magic Lamp - Theatre West, Los Angeles**

***A Little Night Music - East Players, Downtown**

***American Idiot - Segerstrom Center, Costa Mesa**

***Annie - Glendale Centre Theatre, Glendale**

***Baby Face - Covina Center for the Performing Arts**

***Chicago - Performance Ranch, Thousand Oaks**

***Crazy For You - Morgan-V Theatre, Santa Monica**

***The Doomsday Musical - Los Angeles Theatre, Hollywood**

***Evangeline the Queen of Believers - Bootleg Theater, Los Angeles**

***Fellowship! A Musical Parody - Trepany Theatre, Hollywood**

***Follies - Ahmanson Theatre, Downtown**

***Geeks! the Musical - Writers Repertory, Hollywood**

***HAIR - The Tribe @ El Centro Theatre, Hollywood**

***Hands on a Hard Body - La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla**

***The Immigrant the Musical - West Coast Jewish Theatre**



Brightman (pictured above) plays two other very funny characters in the show. As Jeff's slacker roommate Chazz he shows off his ability with deadpan comedy, and as Jenny's roommate Evan, he is hilarious as the ultimate obsessed gay fan of the show who tweets his every thought while wearing a periwinkle blue OnePiece of Norway. Altar has even written a brilliant twitter song for him that will make you laugh out loud, but be careful you don't miss any of the lyrics. They're just too good. It's one of seventeen terrific tunes with smart, inventive lyrics you could blast in the car if there was a cast recording available. The singers, together with music director **Vadim Feichtner** and his band, bring these songs vividly to life. Production values are high; lighting designer **Tyler Micoleau** dresses the stage like an artist with bright colors and warm tones that fill out **Michael Schweikardt's** cheesy pop-up game show set.

Composer Itamar Moses describes reality TV as a "fascinating slow motion

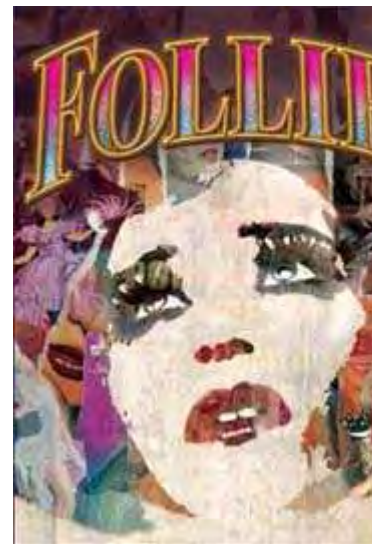
Playhouse

- *Jane of the Jungle - South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa**
- *Jersey Shoresical - Hayworth Theatre, Los Angeles**
- *The Last Five Years - Cornerstone Theatres, Hollywood**
- *Les Miserables - Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa**
- *Los Otros - Kirk Douglas Theatre, Culver City**
- *Million Dollar Quartet - Pantages, Hollywood**
- *Monty Python's Spamalot - Musical Theatre West, Long Beach**
- *Nobody Loves You - The Globe Theatre, San Diego**
- *No Time To Weep - Matrix Theatre, Hollywood**
- *The Pajama Game - DOWD Civic Light Opera**
- *Peter Pan - Glendale Centre Theatre, Glendale**
- *Peter Pan - La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts**
- *Peter Pan - Fox Performing Arts Center**
- *Re-Animator the Musical - Hayworth Theatre, Los Angeles**
- *The Scottsboro Boys - The Globe Theatre, San Diego**
- *Shenandoah - Musical Theatre Guild, Glendale & Thousand Oaks**
- *Showgirls/Jurassic Park - Lounge Theatre, Hollywood**
- *Songs For A New World - Theatre Company, Los Angeles**
- *Stoneface, The Rise and Fall of Buster Keaton - San Fools, Los Angeles**
- *They're Playing Our Song - Pasadena POPS, Pasadena**
- *Too Old For The Chorus - Resorts, San Diego**
- *Virginia City - Hudson Theatre, Hollywood**

train wreck” and there’s no doubt that as much as we may ridicule it, we still can’t look away. Sadly, that too has become part of our culture.



Clifton Duncan as Haywood Patterson and the cast of *The Scottsboro Boys*



The story of *The Scottsboro Boys* is a train wreck of another kind that we might wish we could look away from but that history dictates we cannot. The racially charged south of the 1930s is brought to life with charismatic originality via Kander & Ebb’s jingle jangly minstrel show. Using this outdated form of American entertainment (outdated for good reason) will definitely cause you moments of discomfort as you watch its blunt presentation of black and white stereotypes but it’s actually the perfect lens through which to view the sheer horror of what happened to the Scottsboro Boys.

The Old Globe’s production is one of the true highlights this season in San Diego and if you are anywhere within driving distance it’s a “must see musical.” Five time Tony Award winner Susan Stroman directs and choreographs an athletic production that never misses an opportunity to use the theatricality of the stage to highlight the circus spectacle nature of the case. And it comes with a whole lotta singin’ and dancin’ to drive the message home.

Kander & Ebb’s score is packed with songs that will linger in your ear long after you’ve left the theater. “Commencing in Chattanooga” will have you bouncing in your seat with its infectious upbeat melody just as “Alabama Ladies” will make you laugh and squirm at the same time. Tap dancing in prison with men being electrocuted wins dumbfounded kudos for its audacity and “Go Back Home” is a heartbreaking ballad led by Haywood that is simply beautiful.





Jared Joseph, Ron Holgate, and JC Montgomery



Every single performer onstage is outstanding and together they create an extremely moving musical. It's hard to single any of them out for they are all uniquely featured, sing and dance with ridiculous precision, and bring every ounce of energy they have to their roles. **Jared Joseph** and **JC Montgomery** as Mr. Bones and Mr. Tambo rip through numerous stereotypical characters with brash authority and Clifton Duncan, as **Haywood Patterson**, is especially powerful as a man who isn't willing to buy his freedom with a lie, even though it is a lie that has jailed him in the first place.

The rest of Scottsboro Boys are **David Bazemore** as Olen Montgomery, **Nile Bullock** as 13-year old Eugene Williams, Christopher James Culbertson as Andy Wright, **Eric Jackson** as Clarence Norris, **Cornelius Bethea** as Willie Roberson, **James T. Lane** as Ozie Powell, **Clifton Oliver** as Charles Weems, and **Clinton Roane** as Roy Wright (who teaches Haywood how to read in prison). Master of ceremonies Ron Holgate plays the The Interlocuter and **C. Kelly Wright** is the Lady - a haunting presence throughout the show.



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Technically the production uses simple but bold elements to enhance the storytelling. Scenic designer **Beowulf Boritt** wraps the stage with a purposely off-kilter set of frames that resemble the outline of a boxcar, or pages of a story book gone wrong, and supports the progression of chaos in the story with the heap of chairs, used to create different locations, that become increasingly more of a mess. **Ken Billington**'s lighting design is equally as powerful and together with **Jon Weston**'s sound design and **Toni-Leslie James**' costume design, make for a rich visual experience.

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More Moby

From the standpoint of storytelling, the characters – of all ages, sizes, shapes and degrees of cleanliness – make *Hands on a Hardbody* what it is. As gritty and real and competitive as they are, they dwindle one by one from the grueling contest in which they are engaged. Oddly enough, another contest unfolds at the Old Globe in the form and shape of **Gaby Alter** and **Itamar Moses**'s slick little piece titled *Nobody Loves You*. The clean and bright-eyed young contestants on the weekly television competition "reality" show, "Nobody Loves You," also dwindle as they are eliminated from the schlocky television show. Despite its almost two-hour length, played with no interval, and the intentional shallowness of its characters, *Nobody Loves You* seems slightly shorter than *Hands On*.

Judging from their attire and their youth, it's obvious that Moses' characters are engaged in another kind of journey with a purpose – to find true love TV style – though with Moses at the character creation helm, one can rest assured there is a deeper message. His people may be puddle deep, but they will be interesting, possibly clever, and may even change over the course of the piece, which is laden with 17 songs that have nothing, really, to distinguish them melodically. One must admit, however, that Alter writes some clever lyrics, especially for hot tub. And the hot tub occupant Megan (**Lauren Molina**), who sings "Let Me In," is indeed as comely as she is hot to trot with Christian (**Kelsey Kurz**), who wrestles with sexual mores vis-à-vis his faith.

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More Moby



The company of *Nobody Loves You*

Photo: Henry DiRocco

Megan and Christian are left standing at the end of the competition, along with Dominic (**Alex Brightman**) and Samantha (**Kate Morgan Chadwick**). But the show's real protagonist is Jeff (**Adam Kantor**) who goes onto the show, to which his former girlfriend was addicted, simply because he thinks she's been accepted (she wasn't). Over the course of the competition Jeff falls for the show's production assistant Jenny (**Jenni Barber**), a young woman of substance and ambition.

The show's most legit singing voice belongs to Byron (high baritone and tallest of the men, **Heath Calvert**) the slimy emcee. Moses tosses in a couple of comic gays, Chazz and Evan (both portrayed by Brightman), who are others' roommates and "Nobody Loves You" groupies. Evan, who is the most appealing, follows roommate Jenny's budding romance with Jeff on TV while clad in the cutest hooded "cuddly" ever (costumes by **Emily Pepper**).

Mandy Moore's choreography livens the proceedings considerably, and **Michael Schweikardt**'s slick set has a feature that raises and lowers to become both hot tub and contestants' platform. There's a hidden four-piece band* comprising music director/conductor keyboard **Vadim Feichtner**, electric, acoustic guitar **Vince Cooper**; electric bass **Michael Pearce**; and drummer **Kevin Koch**.

Where *Hands on a Hardbody* offers a group of distinctive singers with a variety of vocal ranges and timbres and allows them to show off in numerous musical styles, *Nobody Loves You* offers numerous young singers trapped in a stereotype of smart, contemporary, and slightly edgy. In **Paul Peterson**'s sound design these youthful voices are so edgy and focused they hurt the ears, almos

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Brightman as Evan
photo: Henry DiRocco

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*Members of American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada



Brenda as seen by Charlene

and conductor **Alan Gilbert.**

Gilbert, 45, who joined the NYPhil in September 2009, is the first native New Yorker ever to take the artistic reins of the orchestra, known as one of the world's finest.

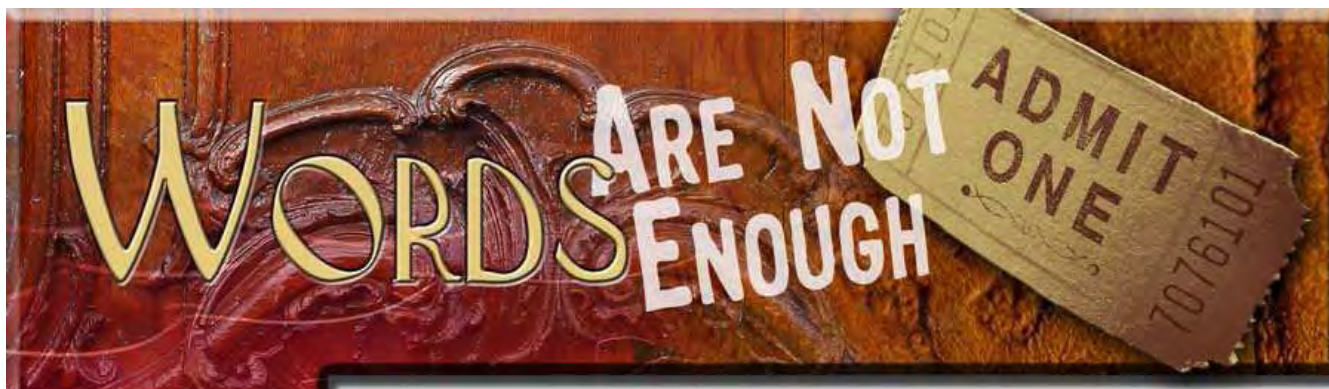
that's life when two such different and well-produced musicals have their world premieres in San Diego. Each is smart in its own way – but then we have two giants, Doug Wright and Itamar Moses, in charge of their respective stories. We're just lucky, doncha know? Now, about the music...

★★★★ *Nobody Loves You* continues Tuesdays through Sundays through June 17 in the Harvey and Cheryl White

Brenda's Classical Gas

Tuesday, May 15, at Copley Symphony Hall, **La Jolla Music Society** (LJMS) presented the New York Philharmonic (NYPhil) under the baton of music director

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Vol. II, No. 42 - May 24, 2012

THESE SHOWS ARE UP FOR REVIEW

ON STAGE

Keepin' it real

**Globe's *Nobody Loves You* is formulaic,
but the cast knows everybody's next move**

BY MARTIN JONES WESTLIN

In this day and age and space and time, the die is cast. Mr. or Ms. Right exists only on reality TV, which has replaced planet Earth as the mental and emotional sphere of choice. Just ask Tanya, whose boyfriend Jeff can't stand her favorite dating show—in fact, his hatred has downright estranged her, so much so that she tries out for the program to find a *real* man.

But the tables will turn. Tanya's tryout is a failure, while Jeff (who auditioned for the program in a bid to win Tanya back) gets on. He turns his circumstance into a positive, using the show as the topic for his grad philosophy dissertation. In time, he'll become a captive of his own fame, which he says feels a lot like love. Therein lies the story to The Old Globe Theatre's current world-premiere musical *Nobody Loves You*, which the cast (especially Adam Kantor, who plays Jeff) tells with eminent self-assurance—they've learned one another's parts, and the clever lyrics and bright tunes take things from there.



Jenny and Jeff (Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor) view the world from the inside of a makeshift TV set. (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

The cast has a difficult balancing act ahead—this piece is clearly a reality show parody, trivializing dating-based programs like *Average Joe* and *The Bachelor* (in fact, this show takes its name from the title of the play). These characters, in fact, wouldn't know reality if it hit 'em in the kishkash, and sometimes, they don't seem to care. Check out host Byron (Heath Calvert), who unapologetically guides us through the activities like the prime-time shill he is, or Megan (Lauren Molina), an alcoholic whose looks and self-absorption color her perception about the kind of guy she wants.

A few slips into weightiness, and librettist Itamar Moses and lyricist-composer Gaby Alter might open the door to satire, holding the reality TV genre (and our own inability to distinguish reality from fantasy) to outright scorn.

But this show's too light for all that. If the lyrics to songs like "You're Incredibly Real" and "Jeff's Confessional" don't steer the proceedings in that direction, the acting does. Director Michelle Tattenbaum and choreographer Mandy Moore have done a beautiful job of coaching here, fueling the cast with a thorough take on not only each actor's character but also everyone else's. Molina is cute and vampy as she puts a hit on befuddled Christian (Kelsey Kurz), and Kurz's Christian reflects every



Director Michelle Tattenbaum has done a good job of coaching her cast on the particulars of each other's parts. (Courtesy photo)

move she makes. Dowdy production assistant Jenny (Jenni Barber) somehow remains above the fray; Kantor masterfully fields her preoccupation.

Michael Schweikardt's flexible set design leads a strong technical effort, although Vadim Feichtner's music direction grapples with too much amplification. No music should be so loud in this 200-seat climate that the actors have to be mic'd.

On too many levels, America's cultural mindset is a basically vapid world, where the slightest distraction can easily morph into the most obtrusive flora on the landscape. *Nobody Loves You* neither satirizes nor condones this—it may be legitimate commentary on pop consumerism, but at least it presents its story with an objective, friendly face.

This review is based on the opening-night performance of May 17. Nobody Loves You runs through June 17 at The Old Globe Theatre's Cheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. \$29 and up. 619-23-GLOBE, oldglobe.org

ON SCREEN

Slobber-free zone

Whedon's restraint and an outstanding cast capture *The Avengers'* superhero aesthete

Michael Burgin is the film critic at Paste.com magazine. We like what he says about Joss Whedon here. Meanwhile, *The Avengers*, which opened May 7 and took in a record opening-weekend \$207 million, has become only the 11th movie in history to top the \$1 billion worldwide receipts mark, doing it in a mere three weeks.

BY MICHAEL BURGIN

Too often, a superhero film is an exercise in missing the point. This can have as much to do with a failure in basic, dramatic execution as it does with the oft-challenging prospect of translating gaudy costumes, monstrous forms and wildly diverse powers from printed page (and fan imagination) to the Big Screen. That's why for every *Batman Begins* there's a *Batman Oh-God-Make-It-Stop*; for every *X-Men 2* and *Spider-Man 2*, there's, alas, an *X-Men: The Last Stand* and *Spider-Man 3*.

Granted, at least for the studios behind the Marvel titles, there hasn't been much reason to sweat missing the point. Of the 21 or so films, all but four have grossed more than double their budgets, with only *Elektra* barely breaking even and *Punisher: War Zone* posting a clear loss. Obviously, there's plenty of money to be made whether or not one "gets it."



The Avengers is the result of five years' work by Marvel Studios. (Google image)

Fortunately for both casual moviegoer and comic book aficionado alike, Joss Whedon gets it. As a result, *The Avengers* not only stands out as one of the best efforts in the modern era of "super" movies; it also represents the most complete manifestation of the superhero team aesthetic yet seen on film. (Apologies to the *X-Men* films—and as far as I'm concerned, the *Fantastic Four* films owe me an apology.)

To be fair, Whedon had plenty of help, both from long-term studio strategy and cast. Regardless of what one thinks of the single-hero titles that preceded it, Marvel Studios' steady roll-out of Iron Man, Thor, Hulk and Captain America movies allows *The Avengers* to be blessedly unburdened by the crippling "origin-itis" that afflicts so many initial efforts in the genre.

They've also given time for the principals to establish their take on some of Marvel's most iconic characters. For Chris Evans (Captain America) and Chris Hemsworth (Thor), this has meant mainly



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There's lots to love about Globe's 'Nobody Loves You'

By Elizabeth Marie Himchak

While contestants in the musical “Nobody Loves You” hear that phrase often, audiences are likely to love the show.



Heath Calvert as Byron, Adam Kantor as Jeff and Nicole Lewis as Nina in the World Premiere musical *Nobody Loves You*, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, through June 17 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

A comical spoof on televised reality dating game shows is making its world premiere at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre through June 17.

The almost two-hour musical revolves around Jeff (Adam Kantor) who becomes a contestant on the show for two reasons — to win back his ex-girlfriend who applied to be a contestant and to expose the show for the unrealistic expectations it creates in viewers, which coincidentally becomes the subject of his doctoral dissertation in philosophy.

Naturally, things do not go as planned when Jeff's ex does not become one of the 12 contestants and he starts to have feelings for Jenny (Jenni Barber), a member of the show's production team.

The musical is hilarious, not only with some appropriately over-the-top performances by show host Byron (Heath Calvert), but by Jenny's Twitter- and show-obsessed roommate Evan (Alex Brightman). Brightman — who played three roles and is a Broadway veteran making his Old Globe debut — stole the show on Friday night, getting the loudest applause from the audience during the bows.

As for the leads, Barber is in her second show at the Globe this season — she was also in the musical “Some Lovers” during the holidays — and Kantor is making his Globe debut. Both were convincing in their

portrayals of slightly cynical but mostly realists in a fantasy-rich, nothing-is-as-it-appears-to-be setting of a reality television show. Their struggle accepting their growing attraction in this understandably questionable environment was convincing and well portrayed.

The small cast seemed larger since many actors played multiple characters. The music was mostly upbeat and catchy with a rock-style feel; the ballads moving; the script had countless funny moments and the cast's vocal and acting abilities were well-suited for the production.

In all, if one is looking for a fun, light-hearted, well-performed theatrical performance, give "Nobody Loves You" a try.

There are matinee and evening performances through June 17. Tickets start at \$29. Purchase at www.TheOldGlobe.org, 619-234-5623 and the box office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park. Free and \$10 valet parking are available.

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Reality Tv Show Spoof Debuts At The Old Globe's Sheryl And Harvey White Theatre In San Diego

Added by Lika on May 31, 2012.

Saved under **Culture**, **Entertainment**, **Headline**, **Jack Lyons**, **Photos**, **Theatre**

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Jack Lyons Theatre & Film Critic

If ever a TV genre needed to be spoofed it's the mindless and vapid "reality show". The death of scripted TV dramas or comedies can be directly traced back to the last Writer's strike. Without the writer's words, the producers were forced to resort to filming outlines of show ideas with the reality contestants sometimes supplying the ad-libbed dialogue and improvised situations. It wasn't a pretty picture then, and now that the format has grown into a staple of the industry, it's still not a pretty picture. It's just more of the same mindless and vapid (but less costly to produce) genre, ad nauseam.

The world premiere of the Old Globe's new romantic comedy musical "Nobody Loves You", now onstage at the Sheryl and Harvey White Arena Stage, is a welcome and necessary antidote to television's plethora of reality shows. The story very cleverly takes on the shallowness of reality shows; stripping them bare in music and song that leaves the audience in stitches pleading for more. With nineteen songs, some of them blisteringly funny and on-the-nose, the production (with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and libretto and lyrics by Itamar Moses), comes sparkingly alive under the direction of Michelle

Tattenbaum. What a creative trio! Of course it helps, and becomes much easier to entertain an audience, when one has eight very talented actor/singer/dancers to throw into the mix.

The story and the music take the audience on a hilarious, behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff (Adam Kantor) a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back Tonya (Nicole Lewis) his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open... until he meets Jenny (Jenni Barber). In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras the musical asks the question: Can two people find a real connection toward enduring love? The answer to that vexing interrogative is the stuff and substance of "Nobody Loves You"... and they get the job done – without an intermission – in about 90 hilarious minutes.

The high-energy cast members, all of whom have impeccable comedy timing, make the fun-filled ride totally entertaining. Leading the way in this faux TV show romp is Heath Calvert, playing to the hilt the handsome, shallow, and very self-obsessed Byron, the show's M.C. The ditzy, but sexy, Lauren Molina shines as Megan. Her "Come On In" (into a hot tub, that is) number is deliciously seductive, and just wears down Kelsey Kurz as Chris and his resolve to keep their relationship at a respectful, acceptable distance for a conflicted Christian young man (the poor fellow never had a chance).

Adam Kantor as Jeff and the fetching Jenni Barber as Jenny, ostensibly the two romantic leads, are kindred spirits who connect on the TV show. He's a grounded philosophy doctoral candidate, who becomes a contestant with a penchant for breaking the rules to make a point. And she's a story editor on the TV show, but a person who really wants to make movies. It's only a matter of time before they "really" discover one another, and who they want to be, and move up to the next level.

Alex Brightman, plays a trio of characters, but seems to hit the right note as the stoner roommate of Jeff, although his number as Evan "The Twitter Song" scored big with the opening night audience. Kate Chadwick Morgan, in two roles, and Nicole Lewis in three, supply solid support in this very clever and timely musical spoofing of the reality show genre. Today's entertainment news out of Hollywood, however, confirms that more reality TV shows are on the radar screens of television producers (ugh, and I'm a member of the Academy too).

The creative team led by director Michelle Tattenbaum, along with Gaby Alter (music and lyrics) and Itamar Moses (libretto and lyrics), benefit greatly from the creative inputs of: Michael Schweikardt's scenic design, Tyler Micoeau's, eye-popping lighting designs, Emily Pepper's costume designs, Paul Peterson's ever-reliable sound design, along with music director Vadim Feichtner, and choreography by Mandy Moore.

"Nobody Loves You" runs at the Sherryl and Harvey White arena stage through June 17, 2012. Call the box office at **619-234-5623**, or go online at **www.theoldglobe.org**.



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by john solleder

I don't love musicals and I despise the "reality shows" that pollute the network and cable channels. So I thought I wouldn't enjoy The Old Globe's world premiere production of *Nobody Loves Me*, a musical about a reality show.

Boy was I wrong. It was hilarious. Furthermore, it was topical, well acted and (gasp) I even liked the songs!

As the show opens we meet Jeff, a grad student working on his thesis. His vapid girlfriend, Tanya, is a fan of reality shows, particularly the *Bachelor*-like show *Nobody Loves You*, in which contestants are told "Nobody Loves You" as they get eliminated. Jeff on the other hand has nothing but disdain for the show and doesn't think there is anything real about reality shows. This contributes to their break up, at which point Tanya informs Jeff that she is going to audition for the next season's cast of the show.

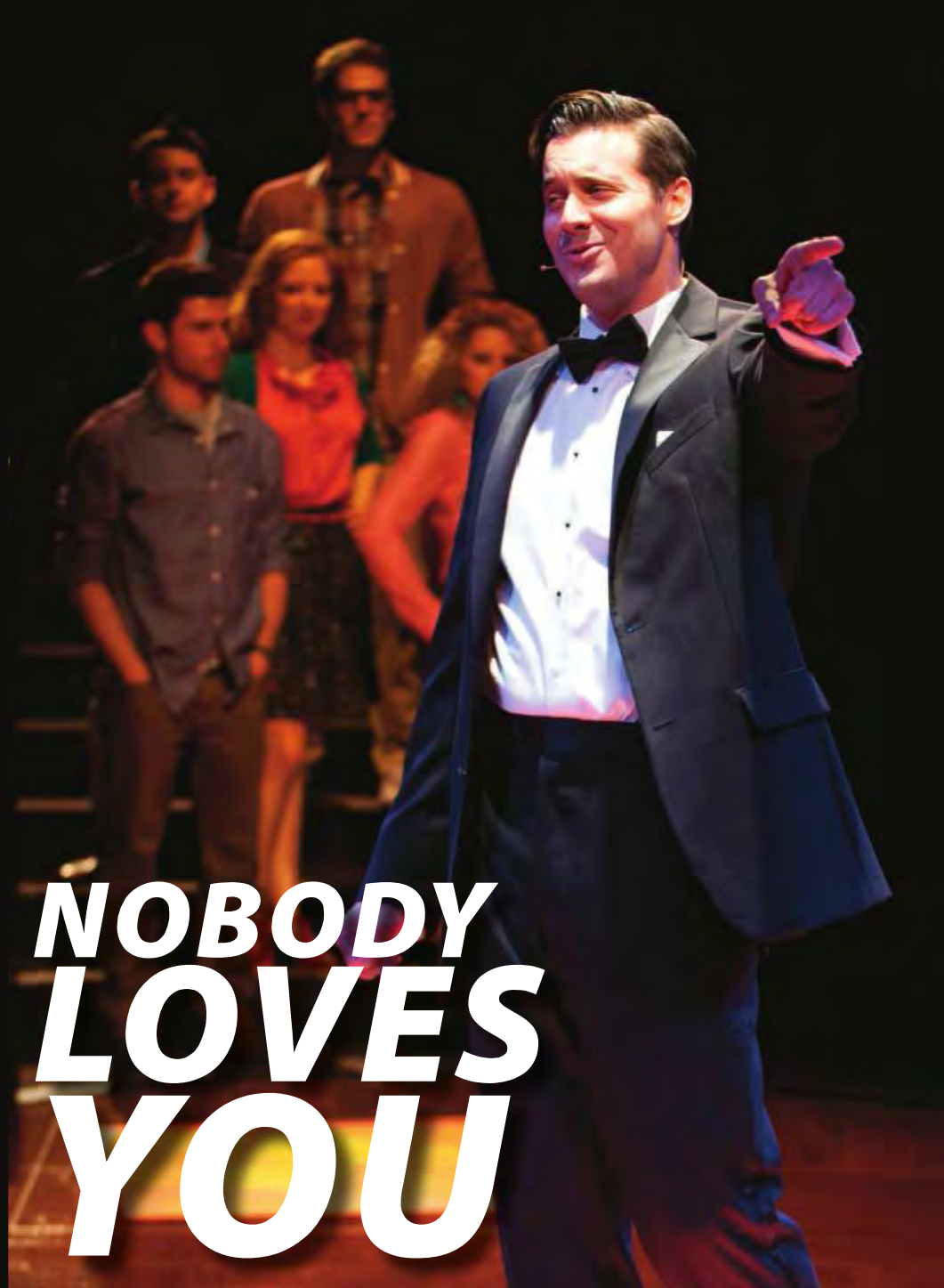
Jeff decides to try to win her back, and prove that the show is all fake, by also submitting an audition tape to be on the show only to discover on the first day of shooting that while he was chosen, Tanya was not. Jeff decides to use the experience as the basis for his thesis on the unreality of so called reality shows.

Along the way, Jeff meets some of his fellow contestants, including the born-again-Christian, slutty whore Megan, ladies man Evan, and mousy teacher Samantha. He also meets members of the production staff Nina and Jenny, and the *Nobody Loves You* host Byron, who is a composite of the stereotypical reality show/game show host.

This is truly an ensemble show, and all the characters and actors are given an opportunity to shine, but for me, a few stood out from the pack.

If anyone could be considered the "main character" in this ensemble production, I suppose it would be Jeff (Adam Kantor). Jeff is an all too serious grad student, who has nothing but disdain for so called reality shows in general, and *Nobody Loves You* in particular. He is determined to prove that the whole process is fake but things don't turn out the way he expects them. While Jeff acts as the show's straight man and doesn't have as many comedic lines as some of the other characters, he is the easiest character for the audience to relate to.

Evan (Alex Brightman) is Jenny's roommate and obsessed fan of *Nobody Loves You*. Although he doesn't usually interact with any of the staff or participants of the reality show, his unbridled enthusiasm and flamboyantly gay personality makes him a scene stealer. He also gives a hilarious performance while singing "The Twitter Song" which, despite my lack of fondness



NOBODY LOVES YOU

Heath Calvert as Byron (foreground) and the cast of the *Nobody Loves You*. Photography by Henry DiRocco.

for musicals, I caught myself singing for days after the performance. He also has a really cute tush.

Of course, it seems like all reality shows have to have at least one slutty character and in this case it's Megan (Lauren Molina). The character almost immediately finds herself drawn like a moth to a flame to the bible-thumping Christian. Megan, as always seems to be the case with bad girl characters, has some of the best lines in the show. She is used to having her way with men and is confused when she can't immediately score with Christian, despite conspicuously showing him her ample bosom while in the hot tub.

My favorite character however, was Byron (Heath

Calvert) the host of *Nobody Loves You*. Byron is an amalgamation of every self-absorbed reality/game show host. He's got the looks, the smile, the hair...and he knows it. I think Calvert summed it up best when he used the phrase "detached glee" to describe his character. Byron straddles the two worlds between the play and the show within the show.

This is a hilarious performance worth watching. Take your friends even if, like me, they don't love musicals or reality shows. Personally, I would like to see it again.

***Nobody Loves You* is playing at the Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park through Sunday, June 17. For tickets and more information call 619.231.6752 or go to theoldglobe.org.**

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Nobody Loves Me

by John Solleder

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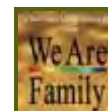
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Nobody Loves You at Old Globe

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San Diego Community News Network



The USS San Diego sits pierside, post-commissioning. (Photo by Morgan M. Hurley)

USS San Diego joins the fleet

Fourth city namesake finally gets to call San Diego home

Morgan Hurley
Downtown News

As the sun finally broke through the familiar May-gray skies along the San Diego waterfront on Saturday, May 19, approximately 6,000 people stood by awaiting the commissioning of a new U.S. Navy ship that not only bears the name of America's Finest City, but will be permanently stationed here.

The USS San Diego (LPD 22), is a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship, with a crew consisting of both sailors and Marines. It is the fourth

naval vessel to bear the name San Diego, but the first to call it home.

After a transit through the Panama Canal in April from the Pascagoula, Miss. shipyard where its keel was first laid five years before and a month of final preparations after arrival in San Diego, both ship and crew were finally ready to officially enter the fleet, docked smartly alongside the USS Midway Museum at Navy pier near Broadway and Harbor Drive.

Previous ships also named after the Navy's largest

see **USS SD**, page 27



Daniel Shirk (third from right), of MCM Group International, joins NSAD Mock Firm team members (l to r) Lam Thanh Nguyen, Wilfred Briones, Monika Banakaite, Carlos Sandoval and Brandon Nash.

(Photo courtesy of NSAD)

NewSchool students win international competition

Undergraduates participated in Mock Firm competition, encompassing all aspects of architectural firm

By Anthony King
Downtown News

Five undergraduate students at the NewSchool of Architecture and Design (NSAD) in downtown San Diego won top honors at the 2012 Mock Firms competition, held in Chicago, May 4. The team, consisting

see **Award**, page 7

Rock 'n' Roll Marathon runs through town this weekend

Annual event mixes long distance running with music to great success

By Bart Mendoza
Downtown News

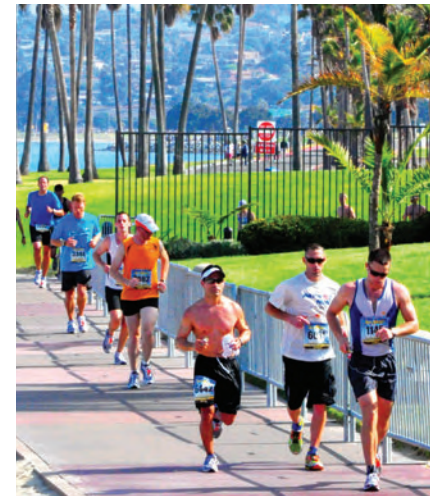
Now in its 15th year, the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon has become one of San Diego's premier annual events, hotly anticipated by runners, health enthusiasts and music fans, alike. Since its inception, the dynamic mix of running and music has spread all over the world, with more than two dozen similar marathons now taking place each year, including events in Spain, Canada and Portugal.

There are actually three races taking place on Sunday June 3: a 26 mile Marathon, a Half Marathon, and the CareFusion 2-Person Half Marathon Relay. The action gets under way beginning at 6 a.m. at Quince Street and 6th Avenue, on the western side of Balboa Park, and ends later that morning at Rose Marie Stearns South Shores Park, near Seaworld. Over 30,000 runners are expected, with 50 musical artists performing along the scenic route to spur them on.

While Sunday's marathon is the main focus, there is a whole weekend of activities surrounding the races. Friday and Saturday, June 1-2, will feature a free health expo, taking place at the San Diego Convention Center. Highlights include guest speakers, such as Olympic medalists Jim Ryun and Steve Scott, with over 100 booths and displays on the convention floor. The site will also double as the location for participant registration, and over 70,000 people expected to pass through the convention center doors.

Also on Saturday, June 2, there will

see **Marathon**, page 8



Runners in last year's Marathon set their pace around the bay.

(Photo courtesy of Competitor Group)



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Lively Arts

Charlene Baldrige

June marks the beginning of San Diego's al fresco fine arts, and it also brings in the annual Mainly Mozart Festival and a touring Broadway classic.

10th Avenue Theatre

Mo'olelo Performing Arts Theatre presents Katori Hall's "Hoodoo Love," a play with blues music called "an aching folktale in the tradition of Zora Neale Hurston." Set during the Great Depression, it concerns a woman who uses hoodoo magic to capture a rambling blues man. Performances June 7-July 1 at Mo'olelo at 10th Avenue Theatre, 930 10th Avenue (just south of Broadway), Downtown San Diego, \$22-\$30, www.moolelo.net or 619-342-7295.

Embarcadero Marina Park

San Diego Symphony kicks off the Summer Pops season with "Star Spangled Pops," conducted by Marvin Hamlisch and featuring guest vocalists and the San Diego Master Chorale in a program of patriotic and pop favorites. All that, the outdoors, and fireworks, too! Performances: 7:30 p.m. June 29-July 1, Embarcadero Marina Park South, \$18-\$76 depending on location (everything from champagne and cabaret to blankets and beach chairs, certain restrictions apply), www.sandiegosymphony.org or 619-235-0804.

The Balboa Theatre

The Mainly Mozart Festival – going strong for 24 years – with Maestro David Atherton, eminent guest soloists, and the Mainly Mozart "all-star" orchestra, composed of top musicians from organizations around the nation, fill this acoustically superior venue with a series of concerts showcasing masterworks by Bach, Beethoven,

Mendelssohn, and oh, yes, Mozart. Performances: 7:30 p.m. June 6, 9, 12, 14 and 16, at the Balboa Theatre, 868 4th Ave, Downtown San Diego, \$24-\$85, www.mainlymozart.org or 619-46-MUSIC (6872)

Civic Theatre

Defy gravity when Broadway San Diego presents the Broadway tour of Stephen Schwartz's award-winning hit musical "Wicked," which tells the "real" behind-the-scenes story of what happened in Oz and asks who is truly wicked in this fairy tale, the green-faced girl or the Judy Garland type. Various times and prices June 20 - July 15, Civic Theatre, 202 C Street, Downtown San Diego, www.broadwaysd.com, www.ticketmaster.com or 619-570-1100.

The Old Globe

Gear up for the Old Globe Shakespeare Festival 2012, comprising Shakespeare's Machiavellian tragedy "Richard III," his pastoral comedy "As You Like It," and Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's timely courtroom drama, "Inherit the Wind," in which a teacher is accused of the crime of teaching evolution. These three productions, employing a repertory company of top professionals (Adrian Noble is artistic director), play in rotating repertory in the outdoor Lowell Davies Festival Theatre beginning June 3. Performances: 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays, through September 30, Lowell Davies Festival Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, \$29-\$95, www.theoldglobe.org or (619) 23-GLOBE (4562).

Charlene Baldrige moved to San Diego from the Chicago area in 1962. She's been writing about the arts since 1979. Her book San Diego, Jewel of the California Coast (Northland Publishing) is available in bookstores. She can be reached at charb81@gmail.com.



By Cuahtémoc Kish
Downtown News

Itamar Moses hooked up with his old Berkeley buddy, Gaby Alter, to collaborate on America's obsession with reality TV, called "Nobody Loves You" which plays through June 17 in Balboa Park. This delightful pop musical underscores TV's overt focus on couplings, both gay and straight, that are engineered to boost television ratings and highlight the sordid underpinnings of lovers and other strangers.

Moses wrote the book and penned some of the lyrics while Alter wrote the music and the rest of the lyrics for the show. The storyline conceit lampoons television dating shows, which date back to the early sixties. In this make-believe version, it's all about voting for that perfect couple. The twist is a contestant by the name of Jeff, played admirably by Adam Kantor, a contestant who tries hard to expose the hypocrisy and the romantic fraud of such a show.

Director Michelle Tattenbaum maximizes the generous portions of satiric humor from the well-written script, while Mandy Moore tops off the direction with some well-placed, zany choreography.

This well-paced comedy runs shy of two hours without an intermission. The cast of eight, many of them assigned multiple roles,



Heath Calvert as Byron with Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz in the world premiere musical "Nobody Loves You." (Photo by Henry DiRocco).

"NOBODY LOVES YOU"

Where: The Old Globe Theatre

1363 Old Globe Way

When: Through June 17

Tickets: Start at \$29

Info: 619-23-GLOBE (4562)

Web: theoldglobe.org

hit all their assigned notes with ease, and make you chortle with laughter throughout the entire production. My favorites include a hot singable invitation into a hot tub, called "Come On In," sung with lovely sleaze by Megan and Christian, along with another duet, called "So Much To Hate," sung by Jeff and Jenny.

Kantor's an exceptional singer who nails his part as the philosophy grad student who unexpectedly finds true love while researching his dissertation on ontology (the nature of reality). His love interest is Jenny, played by Jenni Barber, an aspiring filmmaker who is the show's production assistant. Love blossoms when their intellectual and emotional commonalities collide. Alex Brightman does triple duty by playing three characters,

including the engaging gay roommate, Evan. And Heath Calvert gives Kantor and Brightman some heavy comedic competition as the falsetto-singing host of "Nobody Loves You," although he's been gifted a barrage of lines that simply command untethered laughter throughout the show.

Lauren Molina plays a sexual outlaw called Megan against the handsome and well-built Kelsey Kurz, who plays a God-loving individual aptly named, Christian. Rounding out the cast are Samantha, played by Kate Morgan Chadwick, a contestant and teacher who is fed up with the dating game, and Nina, played by Nicole Lewis, the reality show's steadfast producer.

Vadim Feichtner winningly heads up a below-the-stage band of three, while Paul Peterson executes a solid sound design.

On the surface it's all fun and games, but there are some weighty questions being asked by Moses about reality versus those exploited, fame-crazy individuals under contract in reality television.

This wonderfully entertaining show may not find any theatre space on the Great White Way, but it should entertain in theatres around the nation for a good long time. ♦

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Theater Review: Nobody Loves You

Posted: June 4th, 2012 | [Arts & Entertainment](#), [Featured](#) | [No Comments](#)

By Cuauhtémoc Kish | Downtown News

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Moses wrote the book and penned some of the lyrics while Alter wrote the music and the rest of the lyrics for the show. The storyline conceit lampoons television dating shows, which date back to the early sixties. In this make-believe version, it's all about voting for that perfect couple. The twist is a contestant by the name of Jeff, played admirably by Adam Kantor, a contestant who tries hard to expose the hypocrisy and the romantic fraud of such a show.

Director Michelle Tattenbaum maximizes the generous portions of satiric humor from the well-written script, while Mandy Moore tops off the direction with some well-placed, zany choreography.

This well-paced comedy runs shy of two hours without an intermission. The cast of eight, many of them assigned multiple roles, hit all their assigned notes with ease, and make you chortle with laughter throughout the entire production. My favorites include a hot singable invitation into a hot tub, called "Come On In," sung with lovely sleaze by Megan and Christian, along with another duet, called "So Much To Hate," sung by Jeff and Jenny.



Heath Calvert as Byron (center) with (from left) Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Lauren Molina in the World Premiere musical "Nobody Loves You." (Photo by Henry DiRocco)

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Kantor's an exceptional singer who nails his part as the philosophy grad student who unexpectedly finds true love while researching his dissertation on ontology (the nature of reality). His love interest is Jenny, played by Jenni Barber, an aspiring filmmaker who is the show's production assistant. Love blossoms when their intellectual and emotional commonalities collide. Alex Brightman does triple duty by playing three characters, including the engaging gay roommate, Evan. And Heath Calvert gives Kantor and Brightman some heavy comedic competition as the falsetto-singing host of "Nobody Loves You," although he's been gifted a barrage of lines that simply command untethered laughter throughout the show.

Lauren Molina plays a sexual outlaw called Megan against the handsome and well-built Kelsey Kurz, who plays a God-loving individual aptly named, Christian. Rounding out the cast are Samantha, played by Kate Morgan Chadwick, a contestant and teacher who is fed up with the dating game, and Nina, played by Nicole Lewis, the reality show's steadfast producer.

Vadim Feichtner winningly heads up a below-the-stage band of three, while Paul Peterson executes a solid sound design.

On the surface it's all fun and games, but there are some weighty questions being asked by Moses about reality versus those exploited, fame-crazy individuals under contract in reality television.

This wonderfully entertaining show may not find any theatre space on the Great White Way, but it should entertain in theatres around the nation for a good long time.

Nobody Loves You runs through June 17 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre. Performances are Tues & Wed 7 p.m., Thurs & Fri 8 p.m., Sat 2 & 8 p.m., Sun 2 & 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.theoldglobe.org or call 619-234-5623.

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Loving 'Loves You'

CUAUHTÉMOC KISH THEATER REVIEW

Fun and games not to be missed

'Nobody Loves You' world premiere production ends this weekend

"Nobody Loves You"

Thru June 17

Old Globe Theatre

Tues & Wed 7 p.m.

Thurs & Fri 8 p.m.

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Sun 2 & 7 p.m.

619-234-5623

theoldglobe.org

(l to r) Kate Morgan Chadwick, Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber and Lauren Molina in "Nobody Loves You."

(Photo by Henry DiRocco)



I tamar Moses hooked up with his old Berkeley buddy, Gaby Alter, for a collaboration about America's obsession with reality TV called "Nobody Loves You," playing through June 17 at the Old Globe's White Theatre. If you have yet to see it, this is the show's final weekend; you'll be sad if you miss this world premiere.

This delightful pop musical underscores TV's obsession with couplings, both gay and straight, that are engineered to boost ratings and highlight the sordid underpinnings of lovers and other strangers.

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Fun and games not to be missed

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"Nobody Loves You"

Thru June 17**Old Globe Theatre****Tues & Wed 7 p.m.****Thurs & Fri 8 p.m.****Sat 2 & 8 p.m.****Sun 2 & 7 p.m.****619-234-5623****theoldglobe.org**

'Nobody Loves You' world premiere production ends this weekend

By Cuauhtémoc Kish | Theater Review

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Heath Calvert as Byron (center) with (from left) Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Lauren Molina in the World Premiere musical Nobody Loves You, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by



Jeff, played admirably by Adam Kantor, has joined the show in hopes to expose the hypocrisy and the romantic fraud of these types of programs.

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Alex Brightman in "Nobody Loves You" at The Old Globe. Credit: Henry DiRocco.

BITTER

The score is mostly generic rock and definitely loud — so much so, that the cast has to use face mics to be heard above the din in a theater that is all of five rows deep. Indeed, anyone above age 25 should be advised to bring ear plugs — and perhaps check their minds at the door.

[Rob Stevens – TheaterMania](#)

SWEET

"Nobody Loves You's" book and songs might feel a little first drafty, but they're still fresh, pertinent and very, very funny.

[Margaret Gray – LA Times](#)

BITTERSWEET

While their musical is extremely likeable, engaging and entertaining, it remains an uneven effort.

[Tony Frankel – Stage and Cinema](#)

SWEET

The Old Globe's smart, tuneful "Nobody Loves You" skewers a crackpot TV dating competition without losing sight of the genuinely yearning, burning hearts on either side of the small screen.

[Bob Verini – Variety](#)

SWEET

The songs are even funnier, and often more insightful, than the dialogue. "So Much to Hate," "The Obstacle Course of Love," and "Crush Ceremony" stand out. At times, it seems like writers Gaby Alter and Itamar Moses are channeling Noel Coward.

[Josh Baxt – Culture Vulture](#)

SWEET

The show may plink at some easy targets and conclude without a whole lot of consequence, but the trip it takes to the most ridiculous fringes of reality-land can be a blast to witness.

[James Hebert – San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

SWEET

It's a delicate balance, but it works thanks to the smart, playful direction of Michelle Tattenbaum and the hilarious hyper-corny choreography of Mandy Moore.

[Pam Kragen – North County Times](#)

SWEET

With some zippy and snappy music and lyrics driven by a talented and appealing ensemble, this contemporary piece should charm most everyone especially if the sound (Paul Peterson) is brought down by a few decibels and you don't get stuck sitting in front of a few yahoos who were so damn loud and obnoxious that I wanted to muzzle them.

[Carol Davis – San Diego Examiner](#)

SWEET

It's a shame that this show's smaller scale may make a New York production problematic. This almost-perfect 90-minute musical deserves to be enjoyed well beyond its world premiere.

[Bill Eadie – Talkin' Broadway](#)

SWEET

But Moses and his collaborators have found their way to an engaging and entertaining show. The excellent cast sings, dances and acts well, the songs are clever and the under-the-stage band is fine. The lone problem is that the decibel level needs to be lowered.

[Jean Lowerison – SDGLN](#)

NOBODY LOVES YOU

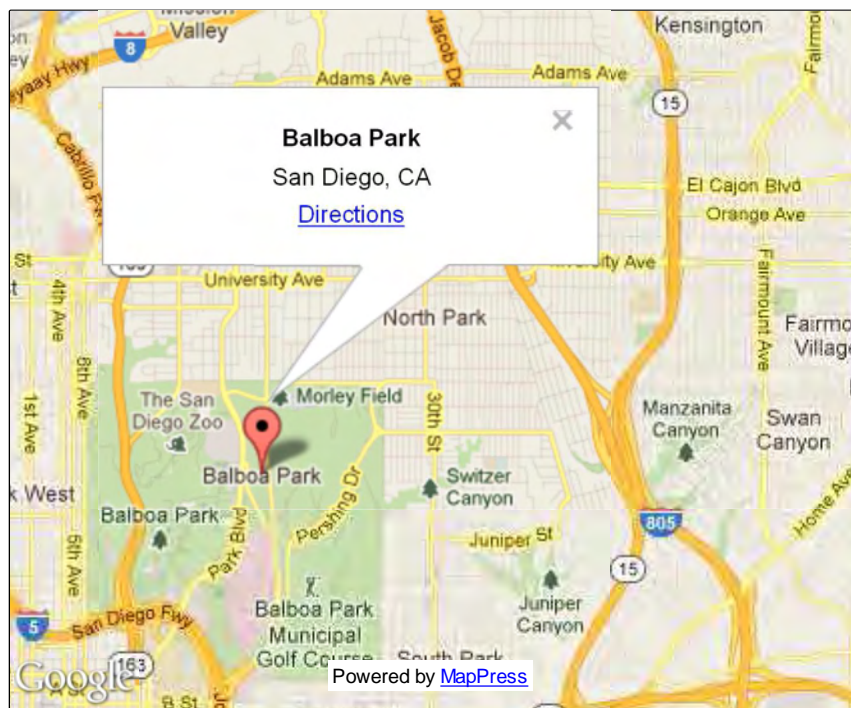
[The Old Globe](#)

Balboa Park, San Diego

7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 1 and 7 p.m. Sundays

Tickets: \$29 and up; (619) 234-5623

Running time: 1 hour, 45 minutes



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BWW Reviews: NOBODY LOVES YOU Makes World Premiere at The Old Globe

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Friday, May 25, 2012; 07:05 PM - by [ErinMarie Reiter](#)



Whether you are a fan of reality television or a vehement opponent of it, NOBODY LOVES YOU at [The Old Globe](#) is the musical for you! Running through June 17th this fun and energetic musical pokes fun at the "reality" in reality television and the idea that love can make you act just as foolishly as any manufactured situation.

The story follows Jeff ([Adam Kantor](#)), an academic who is studying ontology- the study of reality versus perception – and joins his ex-girlfriends favorite dating reality show in order to get her back. As he tries to dispassionately observe what's going on around him (as research for his dissertation) he meets the shows assistant producer Jenny ([Jenni Barber](#)), who is just as fed up with "manufactured reality" as Jeff. In the end, can real love come from a situation that is almost all artificial? Can anyone really resist the lure of fame?

Joining Jeff in this reality endeavor are the stereotypical characters producers love to cast on these competitions. The vastly different contestants range from a drunken party girl Megan (played to the hilt by [Lauren Molina](#)), the devout but conflicted Christian- both his name and his belief- (played by [Kelsey Kurz](#)), Dominic who thinks every girl is crazy ([Alex Brightman](#)) and a sweet schoolteacher Samantha (played by [Kate Morgan](#) Chadwick). Rounding out the cast is Byron, the ultimate smooth and charming reality show host ([Heath Calvert](#)) and the obnoxious producer Nina ([Nicole Lewis](#)).

[Adam Kantor](#) is charming as the contemptuous Jeff, who is incredulous that anyone would buy into this premise of "reality television". He makes it believable that a television show would choose him and that he would stay on the show: if only to expose the show for how ridiculous it truly is and to gather data for his studies.

[Jenni Barber](#) does a good job with the role of Jenny, which is hard considering the character is not as zany as the rest. Her desires to peruse her dreams and not get sucked into the shows hijinks make her much more rooted in reality but makes it less fun for the audience to invest in.

[Alex Brightman](#) is a scene stealer as he jumps into three different characters: Jeff's stoner roommate Chazz, the commitment phobic Dominic, and the nosy, Twitter addicted reality junkie and Jenny's roommate Evan. Evan's "The Twitter Song" is fun and is one of the highlights of the show. As he bounces around in a royal blue "one piece of Norway" sweat suit you can't help but think that this must be how everyone over a certain age pictures the people that use Twitter.

[Heath Calvert](#) is perfect as the handsome yet vapid reality show host. He makes him somehow likable, even though he is clearly out of touch with the world outside of television and with big words like "metaphor". Calvert is the ultimate charming and funny host and he made me (for a moment) want to watch a reality television show; but only if he was hosting.

The light rock score suits the show, but the songs for the reality show are standouts. The theme song for "Nobody Love You" and the "Crush Ceremony" are particularly funny and apropos. Jeff and Jenny meet cute with "So Much to Hate" a song sharing everything that annoys them in life and on this show.

Another song highlight is "Come on In", a song set in a hot tub room between Megan and Christian.

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Molina and Kurz are hilarious in their duet and Molina is especially entertaining as the girl who can't understand why Christian is resistant to her charms. Their other duet "Matthew Four" is hilarious and highlights their obvious differences in life and attitude. Since it is not the first Bible passage that people would think of in that situation, Christian is explaining it to the audience as much as to Megan. Yet it feels genuine as it leads to an important and moving moment.

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If you were to go to Urban Dictionary and search for "theater nerd," you may find a photo of ErinMarie as an example of the term. By day, ErinMarie manages the concierge desks at multiple luxury high-rises... but, really, this is just a sneaky way for her to stay close to theater while at work--allowing her the chance to tell people about all the theatre options in San Diego. By night, she sings, dances, acts and performs around town, sometimes even in theaters! Her love for theater and the performing arts started at a young age and hasn't abated since. In 2011, ErinMarie saw a personal record of seeing 56 live shows, in addition to being a judge for the National Youth

Theatre Awards.

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'Nobody Loves You' makes its world premiere at the Old Globe

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Slideshow: [Nobody Loves You](#)

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View slideshow: [Nobody Loves You \(http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/nobody-loves-you\)](http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/nobody-loves-you)

Joining Jeff in this reality endeavor are the stereotypical characters producers love to cast on these competitions. The vastly different contestants range from a drunken party girl Megan (played to the hilt by Lauren Molina), the devout but conflicted Christian- both his name and his belief- (played by Kelsey Kurz), Dominic who thinks every girl is crazy (Alex Brightman) and a sweet schoolteacher Samantha (played by Kate Morgan Chadwick). Rounding out the cast is Byron, the ultimate smooth and charming reality show host (Heath Calvert) and the obnoxious producer Nina (Nicole Lewis).

Rating for Nobby Loves You:



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The co-creators, Gaby Alter (music and lyrics) and Itamar Moses (book and lyrics) made this a fun and frothy show set in a show that is a mash up of every dating show airing on television. The premise of their reality show is so ridiculous and over the top that it would probably do fairly well on television. This show is presented in the round, which must have initially been a challenge to director Michelle Tattenbaum. Her direction is subtle and helps make each character seem more than just a stereotype, which serves to underscore just how crazy all of the over-the-top everything else in the "reality" show truly is.

"Nobody Loves You" cleverly pokes fun at this (my) generation's idea that fame, no matter how empty, is the path to love and happiness. No matter your age or your feelings on reality television this show is very entertaining.

For more information on tickets please go to www.theoldglobe.org (<http://www.theoldglobe.org>) or call 619-234-5623. Show times are 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays. The running time is 1 hour, 45 minutes with no intermission.

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Erin Reiter, San Diego Theater Examiner

Erin Marie is a dedicated theater attendee, theatre performer and worker, a dedicated talker, and has a lifelong passion for theater. She loves to tell everyone about the world class and varied theater offerings San Diego has year round! Send feedback or questions to sdtheater.examiner@gmail.com.

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Nobody Loves You, Except the Entire Audience

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May 29, 2012

Cassia Pollock and Charlotte Ohrbom, Staff Writers

The musical "Nobody Loves You," a fresh, new pop-rock musical, is currently premiering at The Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at Balboa Park, an intimate stage showcase, and runs until June 17, 2012. The actor's ability to dance and act in a space that isn't much bigger than the insides of a trailer seemed questionable, but the crew in question excelled.

Even with a low-tech theatrical prop of a hollow wooden square, representing a TV, it was believable. By the time five minutes had passed, the actors had the entire audience hooked. The story starts with a couple, Jeff and Tanya, who have a dispute about reality television. He wants to write his college thesis on ontology, or something philosophical and intellectual-sounding, while she wants to watch "Nobody Loves You," a matchmaking show where pretentious people hook up. People vote for the sexiest couple and then those people get money to start their own private reality T.V show. Tanya digs it and Jeff despises it, so she breaks up with him and auditions to go on the show. "No, come back to me," he wails, before chasing her onto the show.

In the end he makes it past the judges onto the show, but Tanya doesn't. Despite claiming to be far superior to the dimwits that date on T.V. by stating multiple times, "I hate your stupid ass show," Jeff quickly rationalizes that staying on the show would be an educational opportunity to help him research humanity for his college thesis. We get introduced to the other competitors, a saucy red-head named Samantha who teaches but can't catch a man who is not a commitment-phobic, and a trashy blonde named Megan who can't stop drinking or sleeping with strangers. A particularly sweet character was the evangelical man named Christian who just wants to "share god's love," and meet some nice girls. And there's the relatively forgettable Dominique who basically defines the two dimensional term "playa."

Comically, the pure Christian and the filthy Megan become a couple. Jeff meanwhile pulls out his video phone every three seconds to record his critical thoughts on the shows developments, making it an affectionate parody of reality T.V.

Jeff eventually loses focus on his thesis and turns his attention to Jenny, a techie for Nobody Loves You, for they both share a hatred for many things, which is put into a song called "So Much to Hate." His struggle to impress and woo her go awry when he pulls her on-screen, making them an authentic part of the show that they both hate so much. Jenny leaves Jeff to fend for himself, but he eventually wins her back and they date like normal people, no cameras and no staged kisses.

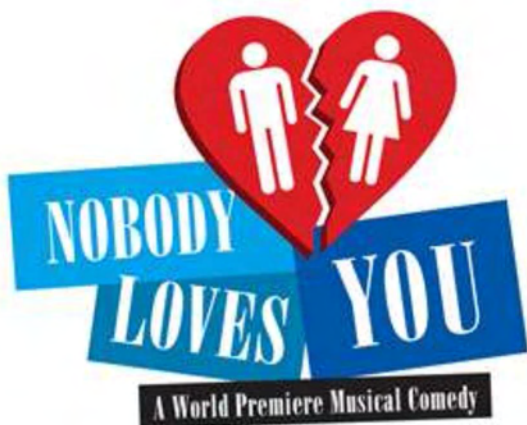
This musical was a breath of fresh air. Of course there were those "I feel a song coming on" moments, but the up-to-date tunes were better than old ballads in other musicals. The plot is funny, the characters diverse, the acting superb, and the actors had great chemistry. Nothing seemed forced and the plot flowed smoothly, like a plane. If you want to understand that last comment and leave with some laughs, go see "Nobody Loves You."

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Saturday, May 26, 2012

NOBODY LOVES YOU @ THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE



"Nobody Loves You": Musically Funny Fodder for the Dialogue Regarding the Sad State of TV

Words by Kristen Fogle

For those that think reality TV can have a profound effect on your life, here's your show.

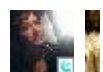
"Nobody Loves You," a world premier musical comedy currently playing at the Old Globe, takes its concept from reality

TV dating shows like "Blind Date" and "The Bachelor." But, in this show, the program everyone watches is "Nobody Loves You," and its goal is simple—put singles into a house, have them compete in asinine competitions and then pair off—the person that doesn't pair off each week is sent home because, well, nobody loves you. Jeff, a Ph d. hopeful working on his dissertation in philosophy, could care less, except that his girlfriend Tanya is obsessed with the show. When Tanya dumps Jeff and vows to be cast in "Nobody Loves You," Jeff decides to apply also, to win her back. Of course, things don't always go as planned and Jeff ends up on the show...sans Tanya. He's about to jump ship from the cast when Jeff realizes an interesting opportunity: why not write his dissertation based off his experiences on the show? Determined to disprove that reality shows are in fact real, he sticks it out (somehow) and becomes widely popular with the producers, cast members, (and most importantly, the viewing public!) for being so "real" himself. In the midst of his research, however, Jeff meets Jenny, a cute behind-the-scenes staff member at the show who he inadvertently gets close to by avoiding his other cast members. What transpires is reality TV becoming fused with real life—Jeff offers his CD mix tape (kinda like offering a rose on "The Bachelor") to Jenny, getting her involved in the show—something she

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never wanted. So... Will Jeff win her back? Will Jenny agree to go on the show to be with Jeff? And is love still love if it's all being filmed?

Though the focus is certainly on Jeff and Jenny's love story, the characters on the show all have their own love interests and sub plots. Promiscuous Megan gets involved with Christian (aptly named as he is BFFs with JC), who also has a romantic detour with the too-intense red headed school teacher Samantha (who originally was spending all her time with meat head-ish Dominic). There's also the host Byron who wants producer Nina... Oh and there's Jenny's roommate, the reality obsessed, bats for the other team, blue onesie wearing Evan.

These characters, though all massive stereotypes, are as addictive as the crazy ones we see on TV—sort of ridiculous, but mostly, kinda fun. Adam Kantor is great as Jeff, the attractive every-scholar, and has great pipes—(I kept thinking to myself that Kantor sounds exactly like Mark from "Rent," and wasn't surprised to learn that he played him in the last national tour...right out of his undergrad...lucky). Jenni Barber plays Jenny—and she's just the right brand of sweet, unassuming, cute dork that makes her character a perfect match for Jeff. Heath Calvert is the over-the-top Byron, host of "Nobody Loves You"—again, also perfectly cast to parody all the cookie cutter hosts on all the cookie cutter reality series' of the day. The other cast members are good—Lauren Molina's Megan has a particularly memorable silly/sexy dance in a makeshift hot tub during a duet with Kelsey Kurz's Christian to "Come On In." And Jenny's roommate Evan, played by Alex Brightman (also Dominic/Chazz) got big laughs...for (of all things) a song about Twitter.

A song about the latest tech craze (and a whole musical based on today's most popular TV genre) could only come from the under 40 generation, and duo Itamar Moses (book and lyrics) and Gaby Alter (music and lyrics) who grew up in Berkeley together, are behind that. Moses particularly was interested in what causes seemingly rational reality show contestants to surrender their grip and start believing they're actually in love with someone they've known for only a few hours or days. He tells Pam Kragen of the North County Times that he "...thinks it has something to do with the heightened reality of the setting—candles, hot tubs, alcohol and willing partners...and the competitive nature of the shows themselves."

A recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, "Nobody" had its first reading in Cape Cod in 2008 and has gone through four more drafts since then, including a workshop reading last year in Connecticut. The version Globe audiences will witness has changed substantially and has been aided by good direction with a clear vision. Director Michelle Tattenbaum ("Love/Stories," "The Four of Us," "Firefly") has said that not only does she resonate with the ideas presented (trying to live your life and find connection with others) but that working with Moses has made for quite a few laughs as she really gets his sense of humor. She also made some skilled editing decisions; apparently she nixed the idea of having real televisions or videos onstage as she felt people would be drawn to them, on or off. Additionally, she has credited choreographer Mandy Moore ("So You Think You Can Dance," "American Idol," and "Dancing with the Stars") for taking every idea she had and doing it "10 times better."

"Nobody Loves You" is still in its infancy and thus, is not a perfect show—let's start with an intermission, people?!—but, it's a fun one. Particularly, it's a good show for someone who wants to be eased into theater, musicals especially, showing the 20-something that there's something

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out there that's not as monotonous as "Cats" or "Phantom." (That's right Andrew Lloyd Webber, I've accused you of boring my generation.) The teens and twenties will definitely connect with the action and laugh easily at the predictable one liners and absurd situations.

And for the full fledged, card carrying, regular patron—well, just like some are attracted to "Kardashians" and others "Top Chef"—it's worth a gander to see if "Nobody Loves You" is your brand of "reality" entertainment.

"Nobody Loves You"

5/9-6/16

The Old Globe

Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre

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The San Diego Drama Kin

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

THEATRE REVIEW: "Nobody Loves You" at The Old Globe

Keeping It Real:

The Old Globe's "Nobody Loves You" a mostly cute and clever contemporary musical comedy

By Donnie Matsuda

As one of the contestants on the faux-reality TV dating show "Nobody Loves You" quips: "You can either perform or connect, but you can't do both."

That's an honest observation that holds true for the Old Globe's world premiere musical of the same title, a pop-rock flavored burst of musical exuberance set in the world of reality television as its sleazy cast of characters tries to find love (or at least a good lay) all while the cameras are rolling. It's an homage to the tried and true dating shows that have tainted the tube ever since *The Dating Game* premiered in 1965 as America has become fascinated by watching real people compete to find "true love" and "romance" in front of a national audience. Over time, such dating shows have become less about happily-ever-after and more about happily-after-ratings, as producers have shamelessly relied more and more on voyeurism, exploitation, and cheap tricks to achieve their outrageous goals. So now, it is probably no surprise that the reality TV watching phenomenon has slithered its way into the musical theatre genre with the Globe's newest musical, **Nobody Loves You**, playing now though June 17 in the intimate Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

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(L to R) Heath Calvert as Byron, Adam Kantor as Jeff, and Nicole Lewis as Nina in the world premiere of "Nobody Loves You" at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

The musical – with a sassy book by Itamar Moses, a pop score by Gaby Alter, and lyrics by both – is everything you could possibly want in a reality-inspired, social-media savvy piece of theatre. In it, a bookish and highly analytical philosophy student named Jeff (a clean-cut, silky voiced Adam Kantor) tries to win back his ex-girlfriend (a spunky Nicole Lewis) by chasing her onto a reality TV series in which highly attractive, sex-crazed twentysomethings must pair up and “fall in love” (i.e. make out gratuitously for the cameras) or be sent packing. The problem is his ex-girlfriend doesn’t make the casting cut but he does, and he’s forced to participate in the awful antics and sitcom-style shenanigans he totally despises. As we learn from his own on-camera confessionals, his plan is to turn his experience on the show into a research experiment in which he exposes its overly contrived nature from within. But as fate would have it (or perhaps because this put-upon reality show must have a love story to ground it), he falls for the show’s production assistant Jenny (a frumpy and fantastic Jenni Barber) and they abruptly espouse their “real” love for each other in the show’s final ten minutes. Cue finale. Run end credits.



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Jenni Barber as Jenny and Adam Kantor as Jeff. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

From start to finish, **Nobody Loves You** (or “NLY” as show groupies call it) gives off a very fake and superficial vibe. Actually, that’s pretty much the whole point of a musical that exists to make a mockery of the very insipid institution it embodies. We’re supposed to laugh at the vapid and ruthlessly shallow antics of the show’s host Byron (a slick and smooth voiced Heath Calvert) as he leads his gyrating, spandex-clad backup dancers in the show’s high-energy opening number, “Which Love is for Real.” And as we’re introduced to the full cast via their tacky yet traditional on-camera confessionals in the musical number titled, you guessed it, “Confessional,” we meet Megan (a seductive Lauren Molina) who drinks till she blacks out and sleeps around most weekend nights, Christian (an upstanding Kelsey Kurz) who much like his name is an uptight religious fanatic who wants to play it “cool” for his “fans,” Samantha (a sassy Kate Morgan Chadwick) who wonders why the guys never stay with her for long, and Dominic (a Jersey Shore-ified Alex Brightman) who...well...’nuff said. And then there’s Jeff who isn’t so much actively competing on the show as he is smarmily commenting on it in his own utterly urbane and overly academic way. Taken together, it’s quite a motley crew of messed up fame whores, but isn’t that part of the fun – and intrigue - of reality TV?

As these dim-wits fall in and out of “love” during the two hour long intermission-free musical, the full cast frequently gets to show off their sure-fire acting and singing chops. And despite it all, there’s not a lot to grab onto as they babble about how they feel (“I Just Wanna Be Loved”) or why their lives suck (“The Obstacle Course of Love”) or what they want to do in the hot tub (“Come On In”/“You Let Me In”). The nineteen songs in the show all carry the same generic pop-rock sound to them and the lyrics (while at times clever and funny) try to be a lot more serious and

profound than they really are. For instance, the following snippet from “I Just Wanna Be Loved” is pretty much representative of all the songs in the lengthy and monotonous score: “My heart is in chains I need someone to free it/The love of my life I need someone to be it/And when they do I need the whole world to see it/Oh, oh oh oh I just wanna be loved.”



Lauren Molina as Megan (background) and Kate Morgan Chadwick as Samantha (foreground). Photo by Henry DiRocco.

The one exception comes in the form of the show’s most hilarious number, “The Twitter Song,” delivered with power and pizzazz by NLY’s most fun, flamboyant, and faithful viewer, Evan (perhaps the ultimate tube-tied social media maven who religiously watches and tweets from his couch). Filled with cute lyrical riffs involving hashtags, commas, and emoticons, the song provides some much needed exuberance at the show’s halfway point and does the trick in getting the audience re-engaged in (and dare I say, all a twitter about) the latest drama on the game show set.

While there aren’t many breakthrough songs or remarkably moving moments in this musical (itself a winner of the prestigious Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award), director Michelle Tattenbaum does what she can to take a number of flighty, superficial elements and craft them into a somewhat cohesive whole. Overall, she does an excellent job of keeping the flimsy scenes moving along at a brisk pace and weaves them as best she can into the generic yet serviceable score. To her credit, her slick reality-show-within-a-show vision is appropriate for a musical of this size and small scope and she conveys her message without the use of any TV, video, or multimedia projections. Meanwhile, choreographer Mandy Moore (of TV’s *So You Think You Can Dance* fame) works her magic in the incredibly intimate confines of

the Globe's compact, arena-style theatre, consistently giving an edgy, contemporary flair to the proceedings.



The company of "Nobody Loves You." Photo by Henry DiRocco.


The technical elements of the show are absolutely first rate and frequently re-create the look and feel of the TV show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*. Michael Schweikardt's set truly transforms the intimate space into a sleek game show set with its slick parquet floors, lit-from-below colored tiles, and a central circular platform that rises up for special occasions (and by "special" I mean such significant, life-altering moments as crush ceremonies and confessionals). Tyler Micoleau's bright neon lighting and Emily Pepper's contemporary costume designs add an edgy rock vibe that is further enhanced by Vadim Feichtner's outstanding five piece electric band.

So, getting back to that contestant's comment about having to either perform or connect (and not both) on unscripted TV shows. It is probably no surprise that **Nobody Loves You** is chock full of professional-grade performances delivered with plenty of panache by a uniformly game cast. But what is sorely lacking here is a connection of any kind. As a musical that prides itself on being "real," **Nobody Loves You** keeps to today's superficial standard, which means it doesn't delve very deep or leave any sort of lasting impression on the viewer. Instead, it comes and goes with the click of a remote and throws out enough drama and deviant personalities in the hopes that it will somehow be renewed for a second season, or better yet, get its own reality spin off show.

Whether or not this particular musical will have such long-term success is uncertain (and highly unlikely). But one thing's for sure: regardless of its contrived plotlines, outrageous personalities, and need for major streamlining, we'll still keep watching.

Things to know before you go: Nobody Loves You plays at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at The Old Globe through June 17, 2012. Running time is 1 hour and 50 minutes without an intermission. Performances are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7pm, Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (619) 23-GLOBE or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.

Posted by [Dr. Donnie Matsuda](#) at 7:04 PM 

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Playwright - ITAMAR MOSES



Pre-production cast of NOBODY LOVES YOU

Show **REVIEW Commentary** (As seen 5/10/12)

[SD Old Globe Theatre:](#)

Keeping It Real



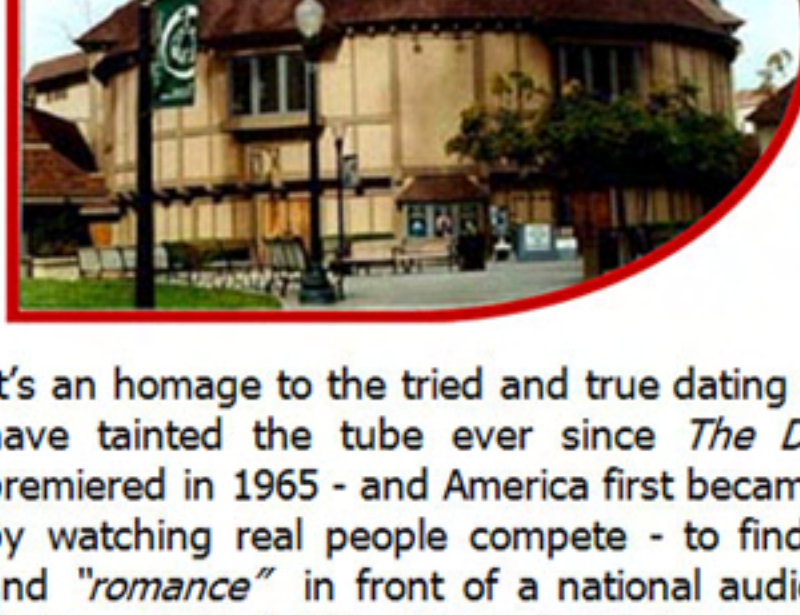
... a mostly cute, and clever contemporary musical comedy!



Per Donnie Matsuda

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NOBODY LOVES YOU
The Old Globe
Where: **Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre (Balboa Park)**
Tel: **619 / 231-1941**
Dates: **5/9 - 6/16**
www.sdoldglobe.org

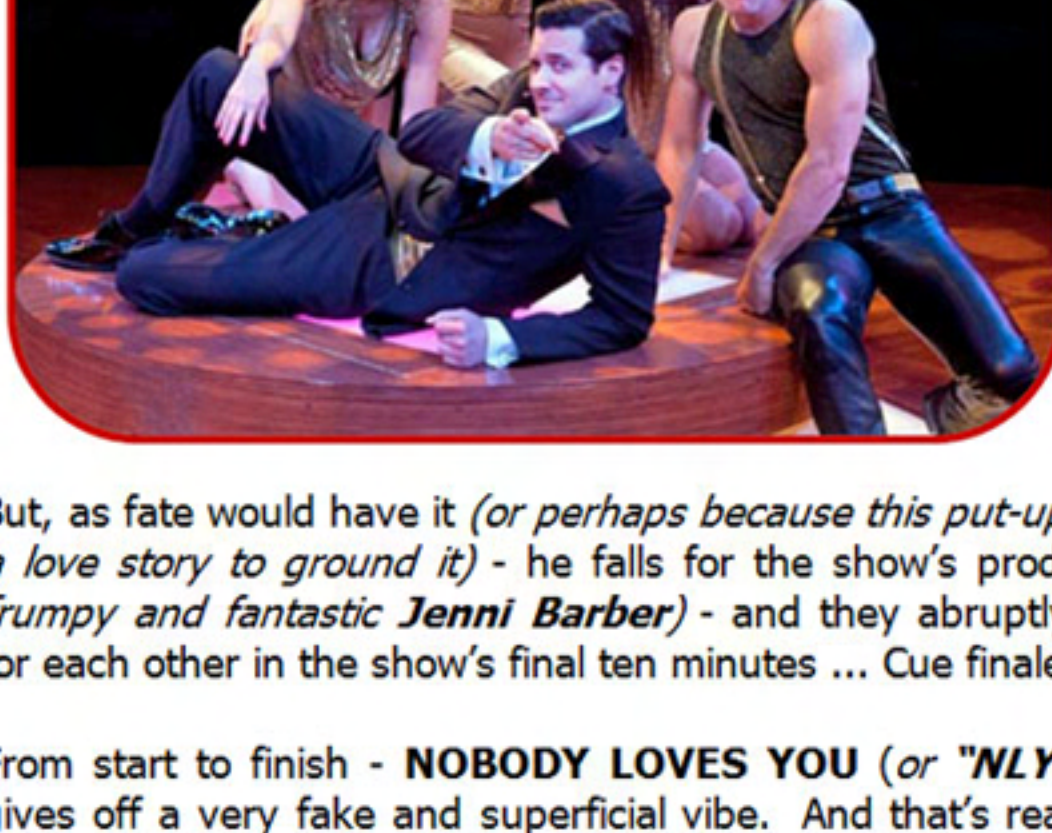
Director **Michelle Tattenbaum**



It's an homage to the tried and true dating shows - that have tainted the tube ever since *The Dating Game* premiered in 1965 - and America first became fascinated by watching real people compete - to find "true love" and "romance" in front of a national audience. Since then - such dating shows have become less about happily-ever-after ... and more about happily-after-ratings - as producers have shamelessly relied more and more on voyeurism, exploitation, and cheap tricks to achieve their outrageous goals. So now, it is probably no surprise - that the reality TV watching phenomenon - has slithered its way into the musical theatre genre - with the **Globe's** newest musical creation, **NOBODY LOVES YOU**, playing now - though June 17th ... in the intimate **Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre** - at the **Old Globe** in Balboa Park.

The musical - with a sassy book by **Itamar Moses**, a pop score by **Gaby Alter**, and lyrics by both - is everything you could possibly want in a reality-inspired, social-media savvy piece of theatre. In it - a bookish and highly analytical philosophy student named **JEFF** (a clean-cut, silky voiced **Adam Kantor**) - tries to win back his ex-girlfriend (a spunky **Nicole Lewis**) - by chasing her onto a reality TV series - in which highly attractive, sex-crazed twenty-somethings - must pair up and "fall in love" (i.e. make out gratuitously for the cameras) ... or be sent packing.

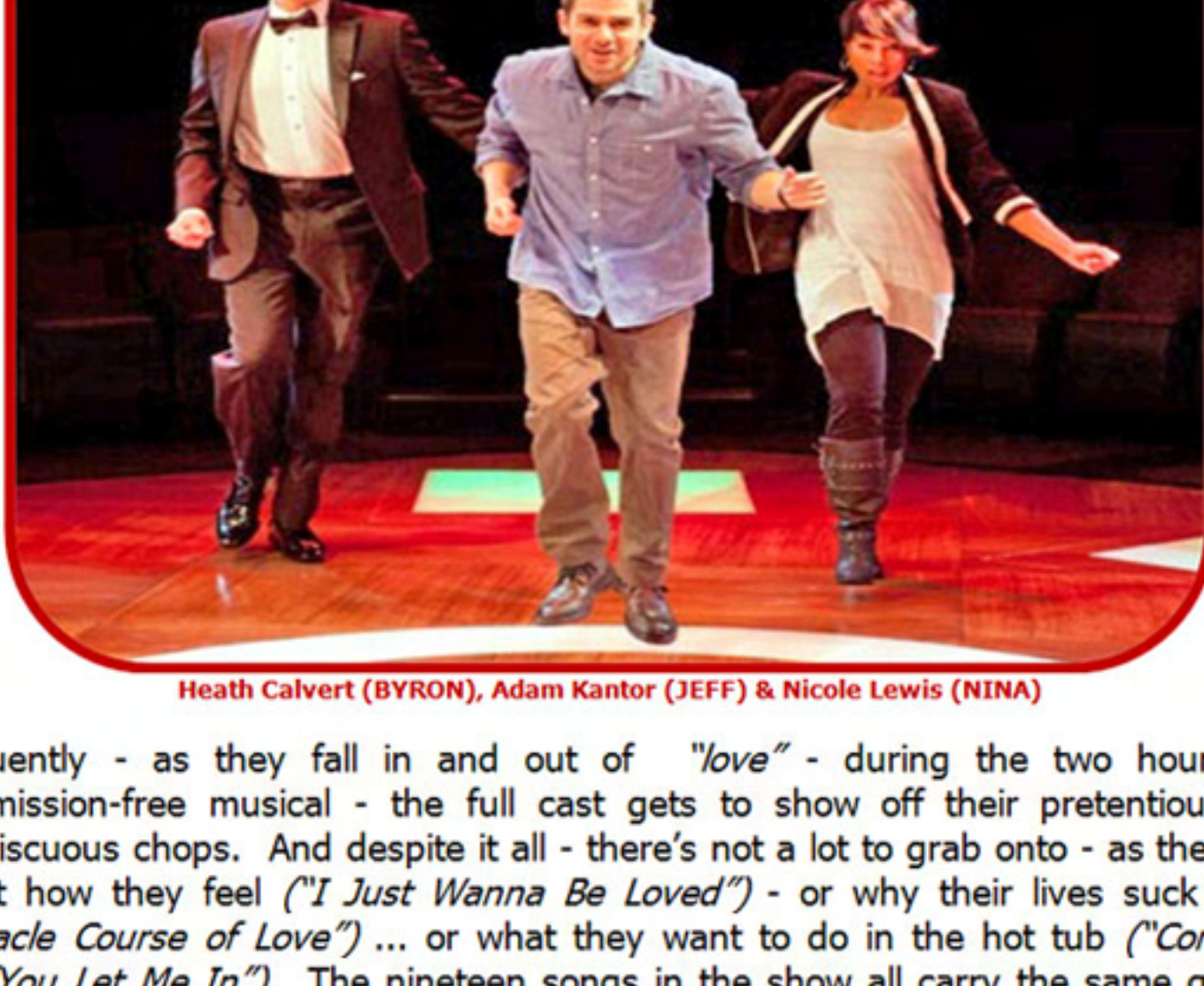
Heath Calvert as **BYRON** (bottom), Lauren Olina, Kate Organ Chadwick, Jenni Barber & Kelsey Kurtz



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From start to finish - **NOBODY LOVES YOU** (or "**NLY**" as show groupies call it) gives off a very fake and superficial vibe. And that's really the point - in a musical that exists to make a mockery of the very institution it embodies. We're supposed to laugh at the vapid and ruthlessly shallow antics of the show's host **BYRON** (a slick and smooth voiced **Heath Calvert**) - as he leads his gyrating, scantily-clad backup dancers - in the show's high-energy opening number, "Which Love is for Real". And - as we're introduced to the full cast - via their tacky, yet traditional on-camera confessionals (in the musical number titled ... you guessed it, "Confessional") - we meet **MEGAN** (a seductive **Lauren Molina**) - who drinks till she blacks out - and sleeps around most weekend nights. **CHRISTIAN** (an upstanding **Kelsey Kurz**) - who much like his name - is an uptight religious fanatic who wants to play it "cool" ... **SAMANTHA** (a sassy **Kate Morgan Chadwick**) - who wonders why the guys never stay with her for long ... and **DOMINIC** (a *Jersey Shore* inspired **Alex Brightman**) - who, well ... 'nuff said. And, of course, there's **JEFF** - who isn't so much actively competing on the show - as he is smarmily commenting on it - in his own utterly urbane and overly academic way. Taken together - it's quite a motley crew - of messed-up fame whores ... but isn't that what reality TV is all about?



Heath Calvert (**BYRON**), Adam Kantor (**JEFF**) & Nicole Lewis (**NINA**)

Frequently - as they fall in and out of "love" - during the two hour long intermission-free musical - the full cast gets to show off their pretentious and promiscuous chops. And despite it all - there's not a lot to grab onto - as they sing about how they feel ("I Just Wanna Be Loved") - or why their lives suck ("The Obstacle Course of Love") ... or what they want to do in the hot tub ("Come On In"/"You Let Me In"). The nineteen songs in the show all carry the same generic pop-rock sound to them - and the lyrics (while at times clever and funny) try to be a lot more serious and profound than they really are. For instance - the following snippet from "I Just Wanna Be Loved" - is pretty much representative of most of the songs in the monotonous score: "My heart is in chains I need someone to free it/The love of my life I need someone to be it/And when they do I need the whole world to see it/Oh, oh oh oh I just wanna be loved".

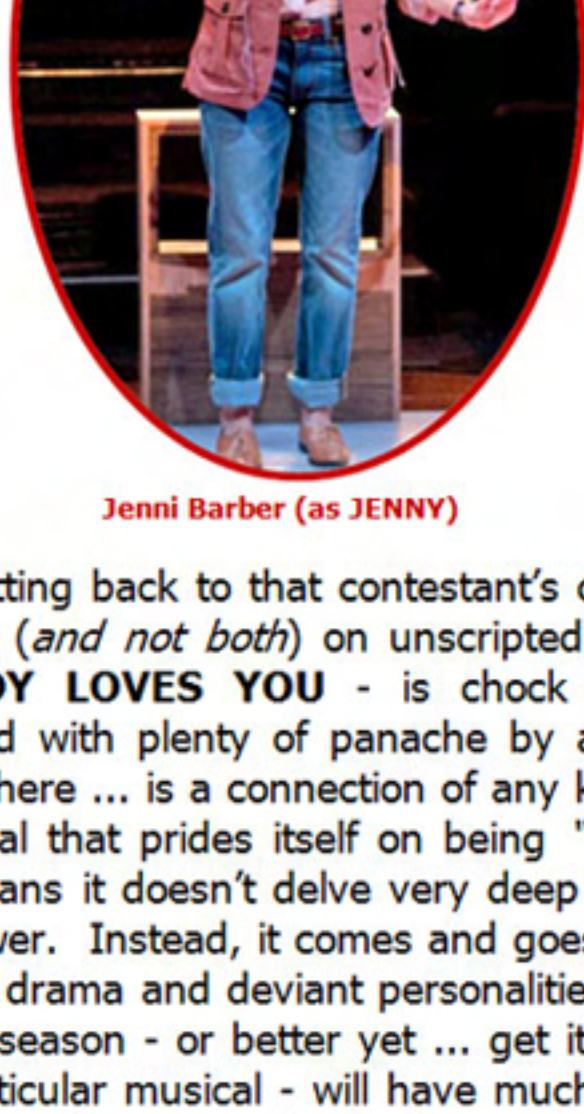
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Alex Brightman (as **EVAN**)

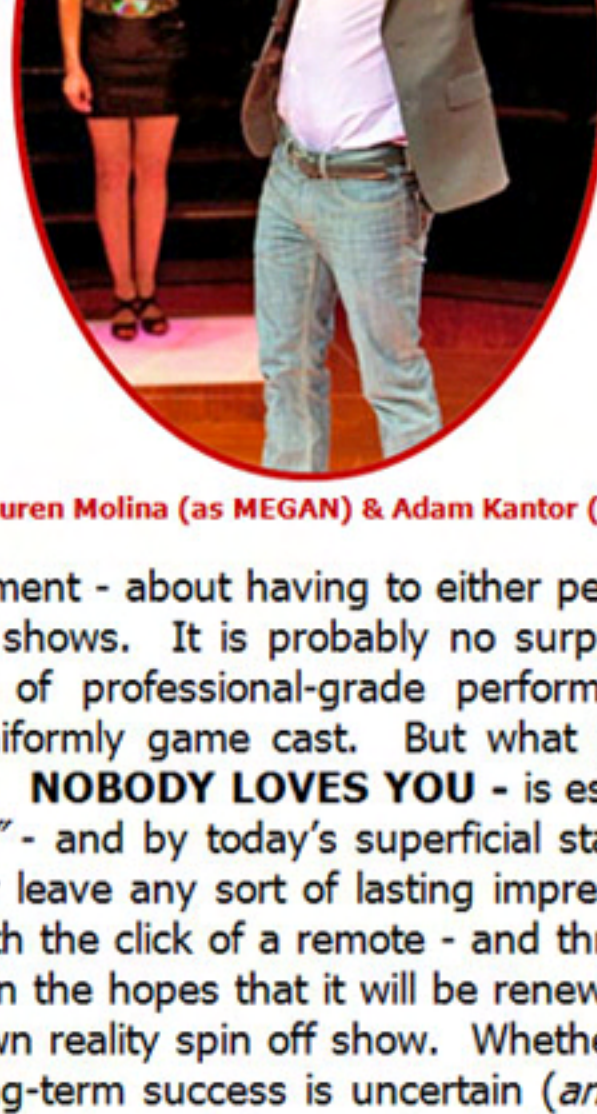


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Jenni Barber (as **JENNY**)



Lauren Molina (as **MEGAN**) & Adam Kantor (as **JEFF**)

So - getting back to that contestant's comment - about having to either perform or connect (and not both) on unscripted TV shows. It is probably no surprise that **NOBODY LOVES YOU** - is chock full of professional-grade performances - delivered with plenty of panache by a uniformly game cast. But what is sorely lacking here ... is a connection of any kind. **NOBODY LOVES YOU** - is essentially a musical that prides itself on being "real" - and by today's superficial standard - that means it doesn't delve very deep - or leave any sort of lasting impression on the viewer. Instead, it comes and goes with the click of a remote - and throws out enough drama and deviant personalities - in the hopes that it will be renewed for a second season - or better yet ... get its own reality spin off show. Whether or not this particular musical - will have much long-term success is uncertain (and highly unlikely). But one thing's for sure - regardless of its contrived plotlines and outrageous personalities ... we'll keep watching.

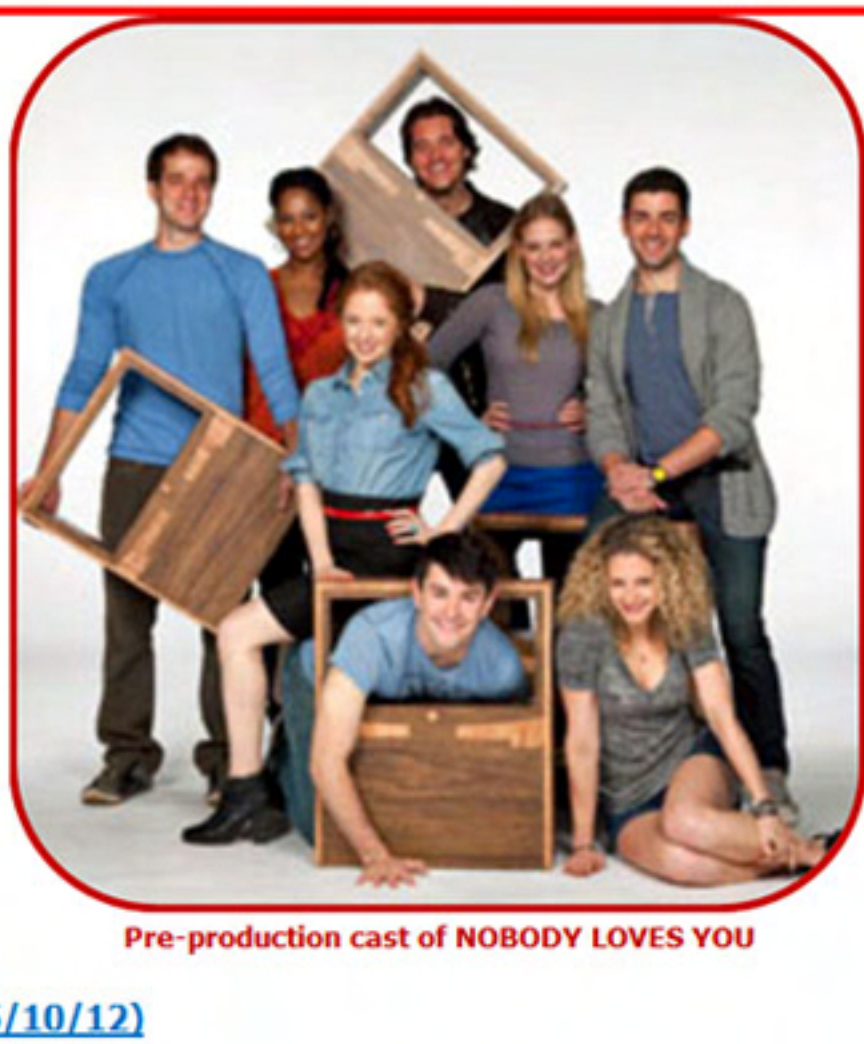
Musical Theatre

Things to know before you go: **NOBODY LOVES YOU** plays in the **Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre** at **The Old Globe** through June 17, 2012. Running time is 1 hour and 50 minutes - without an intermission. Performances are Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7pm, Thursdays and Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm & 7pm.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call **(619) 23-GLOBE** or visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.



Composer - GABY ALTER



Pre-production cast of NOBODY LOVES YOU

[Show REVIEW Commentary \(As seen 5/10/12\)](#)
[SD Old Globe Theatre:](#)



Musically Funny Fodder for the Dialogue Regarding the Sad State of TV



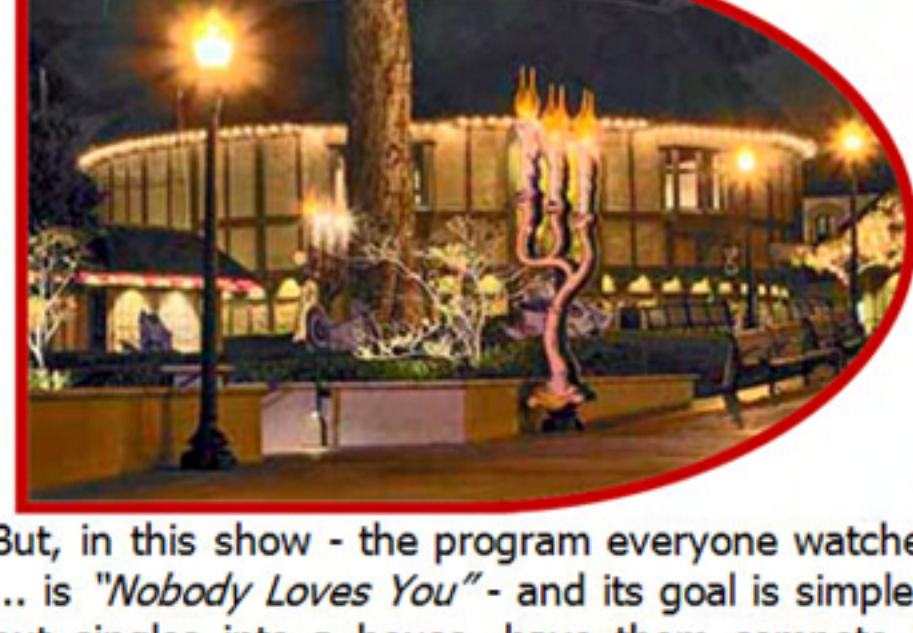
Adam Kantor (JEFF- center) with cast of NOBODY LOVES YOU

Per Kristen Fogle



For those that think reality TV can have a profound effect on your life ... here's your show.

"Nobody Loves You" - a world premier musical comedy currently playing at the **Old Globe** - takes its concept from reality TV dating shows ... like *"Blind Date"* and *"The Bachelor"*.



ZERO IN ON
NOBODY LOVES YOU
The Old Globe
Where: Sheryl & Harvey
White Theatre(Balboa Park)
Tel: 619 / 231-1941
Dates: 5/9 - 6/16
www.sdoldglobe.org

Choreographer Mandy Moore



But, in this show - the program everyone watches ... is *"Nobody Loves You"* - and its goal is simple - put singles into a house, have them compete in asinine competitions - and then pair off - the person that doesn't pair off each week - is sent home because, well ... nobody loves you. JEFF, a Phd. hopeful - working on his dissertation in philosophy - could care less - except that his girlfriend TANYA - is obsessed with the show. When TANYA dumps Jeff - and vows to be cast in *"Nobody Loves You"* - JEFF decides to apply also - to win her back. Of course, things don't always go as planned - and JEFF ends up on the show ... sans TANYA. He's about to jump ship from the cast - when JEFF realizes an interesting opportunity ... why not write his dissertation - based off his experiences on the show?

Determined to disprove that reality shows - are in fact real - he sticks it out (*somehow*) - and becomes widely popular with the producers, cast members, (*and most importantly, the viewing public!*) - for being so *"real"* himself. In the midst of his research, however - JEFF meets JENNY - a cute behind-the-scenes staff member at the show - who he inadvertently gets close to - by avoiding his other cast members. What transpires - is reality TV ... becoming fused with real life. JEFF offers his CD mix tape (*kinda like offering a rose on "The Bachelor"*) to JENNY - getting her involved in the show - something she never wanted. So ... will JEFF win her back? Will JENNY agree to go on the show ... to be with JEFF? And, is love still love ... if it's all being filmed?



Though the focus is certainly on JEFF and JENNY's love story - the characters on the show - all have their own love interests and sub plots. Promiscuous MEGAN gets involved with CHRISTIAN (*aptly named as he is BFFs with JC*) - who also has a romantic detour - with the too-intense red headed school teacher SAMANTHA (*who originally was spending all her time with meat head-ish Dominic*). There's also the host BYRON - who wants producer NINA ... and, oh ... there's JENNY's roommate, the reality obsessed, bats for the other team ... blue onesie wearing ... EVAN.

Heath Calvert (*as BYRON center*) with Kate Mogan Chadwick, Jennifer Barber & Lauren Molina

These characters, though all massive stereotypes - are as addictive as the crazy ones we see on TV ... sort of ridiculous - but mostly ... *kinda fun*. **Adam Kantor** is

great as JEFF - the attractive every-scholar ... and has great pipes! (*I kept thinking to myself that Kantor sounds exactly like Mark from "Rent" - and wasn't surprised to learn - that he played him in the last national tour ... right out of his undergrad ... lucky*). **Jenni Barber** plays JENNY - and she's just the right brand of sweet, unassuming, cute dork ... that makes her character a perfect match for JEFF. **Heath Calvert** is the over-the-top BYRON, host of *"Nobody Loves You"* - again, also perfectly cast to parody all the cookie cutter hosts on all the cookie cutter reality series' of the day. The other cast members are good - **Lauren Molina's** MEGAN - has a particularly memorable silly/sexy dance - in a makeshift hot tub - during a duet with **Kelsey Kurz's** Christian to *"Come On In"* - and JENNY's roommate EVAN, played by **Alex Brightman** (*also Dominic/Chazz*) - got big laughs ... for (*of all things*) ... a song about Twitter.

Jenni Barber (as JENNY) & Adam Kantor (as Jeff)

A song about the latest tech craze (*and a whole musical based on today's most popular TV genre*) could only come from the under 40 generation - and duo **Itamar Moses** (*book and lyrics*) and **Gaby Alter** (*music and lyrics*) - who grew up in Berkeley together ... are behind that. **Moses** particularly - was interested in what causes seemingly rational reality show contestants - to surrender their grip - and start believing - they're actually in love with someone they've known for only a few hours or days. He tells **Pam Kragen** of the *North County Times* - that he *"...thinks it has something to do with the heightened reality of the setting - candles, hot tubs, alcohol and willing partners ... and the competitive nature of the shows themselves."*



A recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award - *"Nobody"* had its first reading in Cape Cod in 2008 - and has gone through four more drafts since then - including a workshop reading last year in Connecticut. The version **Globe** audiences will witness - has changed substantially ... and has been aided by good direction with a clear vision. Director **Michelle Tattenbaum** (*"Love/Stories" ... "The Four of Us" and "Firefly"*) has said - that not only does she resonate with the ideas presented (*trying to live your life and find connection with others*) - but that working with **Moses** - has made for quite a few laughs - as she really gets his sense of humor. She also made some skilled editing decisions; apparently she nixed the idea of having real televisions or videos onstage - as she felt people would be drawn to them ... on or off. Additionally - she has credited choreographer **Mandy Moore** (*"So You Think You Can Dance" ... "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars"*) for taking every idea she had ... and doing it ... *"10 times better"*.



(left) Lauren Molina (*as MEGAN*) & Kate Morgan Chadwick (*as SAMANTHA*)
 (right) Kelsey Kurtz (*as CHRISTIAN*) & Lauren Molina (*as MEGAN*)

"Nobody Loves You" - is still in its infancy - and thus, is not a perfect show ... let's start with an intermission, people?! ... but, it's a fun one. Particularly - it's a good show for someone who wants to be eased into theater ... musicals especially, showing the 20-something ... that there's something out there that's not as monotonous as *"Cats"* or *"Phantom"* ... (*That's right Andrew Lloyd Webber, I've accused you of boring my generation.*) The teens and twenties - will definitely connect with the action - and laugh easily at the predictable one liners and absurd situations.

And for the full fledged, card carrying, regular patron - well, just like some are attracted to *"Kardashians"* and others *"Top Chef"* - it's worth a gander to see if **"Nobody Loves You"** ... is your brand of *"reality"* entertainment.

Tameri Etherton

A Cup of Tea and Sorcery

TAG ARCHIVES: NOBODY LOVES YOU

Pain Meds Can Be Funny

Posted on **May 29, 2012**

Maybe the title of this blog post should be, 'Never take a sales call when you're goofed up on meds', but that's too long.

That's exactly what I did and the result led to one of the funniest experiences I've had in a long, long time. Something I wouldn't have done without being goofed up on pain meds.

You're probably wondering why I was on pain meds, let me assure you it was nothing terrible or nefarious, just a bit of laser surgery to remove an old tattoo I'm no longer in love with. That's a whole other blog post, though. 😊

So Andy, a sweet guy from The Old Globe Theater calls me one night and asks if I'd like to get season tickets for the Globe. Every summer my friend Laura and I go see a Shakespeare play so I thought, sure! Actually, the pain meds thought it was a grand idea, the sensible part of me that doesn't make snap decisions involving money was saying, 'nooooooo!'. The pain meds won and I ignored boring old sensible me.

Follow



Part of the season ticket package was a play called, 'Nobody Loves You'. A musical comedy about a reality show. Yes, you read that right. A musical comedy about a reality TV show.

What's not to love about that, right? If you think I love trashy TV, you haven't met my friend Laura. She's addicted to everything from The Bachelor to The Real Housewives of Everywhere. So I knew she'd be excited for the play.

Sunday rolls along and off we go to Balboa Park to see our play. Except we sort of forgot it was Memorial Weekend and half the city wanted to be exactly where we were. We ended up parking a mile away with only ten minutes to go before final curtain call. Wouldn't you know, this was the day I chose to wear my cute, strappy little sandals.

Ignoring the blisters forming on my feet (they are hideous!), we made it to the Will Call window just in time. Yay! There was a bit of a mix up at the box office about what day we were supposed to attend ~ they thought Saturday and I insisted it was Sunday. In truth, I was goofed up on pain meds, it might've been Saturday. Still, there was a moment of panic when I thought perhaps my ungraceful loping from the car to the theater might've been for naught.

Then a super sweet guy told us there was plenty of room, go right in. Thank you charming man with the headset!

The first thing you should know about the theater is that it's small. We're talking minimalist stage props on a twenty foot diameter stage with seven rows of seats. Let's say it's cozy.

The next thing you need to know is that Laura and I were clearly the youngest attendees. Well, except for the one teenage boy who was mortified for half the show and kept hiding his face. He was adorable and we couldn't help but laugh at his expressions.

Lastly, you must understand that this is a musical comedy about a young man who, in an attempt to win back his girlfriend, goes on a 'dating' type show. Having a working knowledge of social

Follow

media and the various sub-genres of reality shows is essential. The play basically makes fun of all reality shows. In song!

I'm sure by now you've all figured out why this was one of the funniest experiences of my life. The play was a riot. I highly recommend if this play comes to your town, run to see it!

Added to the hilarity of the play was the fact that half the time it was ONLY Laura and I laughing at the jokes. Did I mention we laugh really loud? I think I gave the poor guy next to me several mini heart attacks. Sorry sweet old dude sitting beside me!

The cast loved us. They would seriously look at us and wait until we finished laughing. Laura and I thought the only thing that would've made the play better was if it could be interactive. More audience participation would've rocked.

I guess the whole point of this post is that I took a chance on something I normally would've said no to, and from that I got a truly amazing experience. Sometimes, you just gotta get goofed up on pain meds to quiet the sensible voice in your head! Okay, not really but there are times when it pays to take a risk.

Have you ever had an amazing experience that might not have happened if you didn't step out of your comfort zone? Please share with us!

Here's a brief video that encapsulates some of the show, but really it's way better live with the actors right there in front of you. Enjoy!

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Foodie Mom

Culinary Adventures in America's Finest City

A San Diego Restaurant Review Blog

in which the author chronicles her efforts to indulge her foodie inclinations amidst her working-mom-of-a-toddle lifestyle

(with some reviews for with toddlers, others for date night, and others for a delicious solo lunch on the run!)

SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2012

Nobody Loves You: Globe Review

Reviewed dinner below. But wanted to put in a plug for this super-cute show by Itamar Moses and Gaby Alter, with adorable choreography from Mandy Moore of SYTYCD. We laughed our heads off. It's a musical spoofing/asking deeper questions about reality TV and romantic ideals. Very clever and entertaining and sweet!

Posted by [SDFoodGirl](#) at 9:55 PM

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Alex's Brown Bag (Bankers Hill: cheesesteaks plus)

Alforon (Rolando)

Barbarella (LJ Shores)

Bull Taco (Cardiff)

Cafe Madeleine (South Park)

Cafe Secret (Del Mar)

Caffe Calabria (North Park)

Cantina Mayahuel

Casa de Luz (North Park; vegetarian)

Claire's on Cedros (Solana Beach)

Dave de Jour Food Truck

Do Re Mi House (Convoy)

East Coast Pizza (Cardiff)

El Take It Easy (North Park)

El Vitral (Gaslamp)

Empirehouse (Hillcrest)

Gillespie Field Cafe (El Cajon)

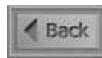
Giorgino's (Golden Hill, cheesesteaks for CH)

Izakaya Sakura (Convoy)

Jayne's Gastropub (that's right - still haven't gone)

Long Island Mike's Pizza (Kearny)

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Nobody Loves You

A World Premiere.

"NOBODY LOVES YOU is one of the best light hearted and witty musicals that we have seen in a long time. Inventive staging and a terrific cast are among the many superior characteristics that make it worthy of moving on to New York. It will do well there if it goes. Hurry, it closes on the Sunday." – Performing Arts LIVE



Filled with tuneful pop songs, Nobody Loves You is an irreverent new musical comedy about the search for real relationships in a pop culture that is anything but.

When Jeff, a young grad student, joins a reality television show to try and win back his ex, he unexpectedly meets a girl who might be the love of his life. But when seduced by the adulation of his fans, Jeff must decide what is more important – fame or love? .

Presenter / Producer: The Old Globe

Listed Categories

Theater > Musicals

Theater > Theatrical Comedy

Theater > Other

Event Phone: 619-234-5623

Venue

The Old Globe
1363 Old Globe Way
San Diego CA 92101

Regions:

Orange County

Performance Dates: 5/9/2012 - 6/17/2012

Wednesday, 05/09/2012	Tuesday, 05/29/2012
Thursday, 05/10/2012	Wednesday, 05/30/2012
Friday, 05/11/2012	Thursday, 05/31/2012
Saturday, 05/12/2012	Friday, 06/01/2012
Sunday, 05/13/2012	Saturday, 06/02/2012
Tuesday, 05/15/2012	Sunday, 06/03/2012
Wednesday, 05/16/2012	Tuesday, 06/05/2012
Thursday, 05/17/2012	Wednesday, 06/06/2012
Friday, 05/18/2012	Thursday, 06/07/2012
Saturday, 05/19/2012	Friday, 06/08/2012
Sunday, 05/20/2012	Saturday, 06/09/2012





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A CurtainUp California Review

Nobody Loves You

By [Jon Magaril](#)

I hate guys that use their hatred of cliches as an excuse not to do anything that's nice for you.— Jenny



Heath Calvert as Byron (bottom) with Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz
(Photo by Henry DiRocco)

You don't have to be a fan or foe of reality television to love *Nobody Loves You*. Of course, familiarity breeds contentment. This delightful new musical supplies a steady flow of spot-on digs. But even if you don't know dating competitions like *The Bachelor*, the ebullience and talent on display at the Old Globe are more than enough to bring you joy.

Philosophy grad student Jeff (Adam Kantor) gets dumped by his girlfriend Tanya (the impressively versatile Nicole Davis) because he'd rather write about the nature of reality than watch her favorite reality program *Nobody Loves You*. When she divulges her

plan to join the show, he auditions with the hope of winning her back. Complications ensue when he gets cast, she doesn't, and the producer (also Ms Davis) thinks his refreshingly outspoken criticism of the show may revive sagging ratings.

The musical's creative team has found the perfect tone to take on a subject that pretty much parodies itself. The characters most in touch with reality are treated with appealing restraint. Jeff's decision to stay on the show is cemented by meeting Jenny (Jenni Barber), an aspiring filmmaker paying her dues as an overworked assistant producer. The pair create a true bond by sharing war stories of fake modern love in the memorable "So Much to Hate."

Kantor is believable as both an ontological thinker and a romantic — no mean feat. There's a whiff of smugness about him that's uninviting but, as the musical teaches us, nobody's perfect. I can't figure out how Barber's Jenni isn't perfect and I'm not going to try. Both Kantor and Barber prove essential to the production's success by giving us a couple to care about.

Exaggeration is used for the characters who've constructed a persona to make themselves seem more attractive. The production studio/"mansion," which the contestants are forbidden to leave, becomes a distorting house



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[Our review of the show](#)

of mirrors in which each reflects whom he or she thinks the others might choose. The dry, hot air of Heath Calvert's empty-headed host and the playful exuberance of Lauren Molina, Kelsey Kurz, and Kate Morgan Chadwick's would-be mates lift the production over the traps of contempt or condescension.

The show brings a smile that starts with its title and extends through the jaunty curtain call. Michele Tattenbaum's direction makes every moment ping. If the piece seems ten minutes or so too long, the problem isn't her pacing. It's the writers' distended denouement.

Tattenbaum has brought together a top team of designers. Each of Emily Pepper's costumes elicits a guffaw or a desire to know where to buy it. In particular the Nordic pajama onesie for scene-stealer Alex Brightman's Evan may be the funniest, most character-defining piece I've seen in years.

This chamber charmer is a lark for both the audience and librettist/co-lyricist Itamar Moses, whose off-Broadway plays usually involve weightier matters and trickier structures. He's not coasting here or selling out. The show will probably have a more profitable life than most of his work, perhaps in an extended off-Broadway run and certainly in regional theaters and schools. But he seems thoroughly engaged with the material, mining it for a multitude of laughs and morsels of topical issues.

The show-within-the-show's ridiculously funny theme song, "Which Love Is For Real?" raises a question that flows genuinely through every aspect of the piece. Moses lets Jeff off the hook much too easily when he shifts his attention presto change-o from Tanya to Jenny. But towards the end, when Jeff breaks his promise of keeping their relationship away from the cameras, Moses hits on the most current of romantic conundrums: how do you establish trust in a culture that leaves diminishing room for private connection?

It's moments like these, played only glancingly as drama, which keep *Nobody Loves You* from spinning off into silliness. Mandy Moore's choreography is vivid fun. And Gaby Altar's peppy music keeps things popping. It lacks distinction, which limits the show's impact. But it serves as an effective platform for his and Moses' clever, conversational lyrics.

Nobody Loves You probably won't be the love of your theatrical life. But its satisfactions run deeper than a typical one night stand. You may even want to make another date every now and then to relive the good times. Everyone associated with this delightfully barbed romance deserves a rose.

Nobody Loves You

Music and Lyrics by Gaby Alter

Book and Lyrics by Itamar Moses

Directed by Michelle Tattenbaum

Music Direction by Vadim Feichtner

Choreography by Mandy Moore

Scenic Design by Michael Schweikardt

Costume Design by Emily Pepper

Lighting Design by Tyler Micoleau

Sound Design by Paul Peterson

Running Time: One hour and fifty minutes without intermission

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego (619) 234-5623 or

www.theoldglobe.org From May 3 – June 17, 2012

Reviewed by Jon Magaril based on May 28, 2012 evening performance

Song List

Which Love is for Real - Byron and his Dancers
I Just Wanna Be Loved – Company
Nobody Loves You – Byron
You're Incredibly Real - Nina, Byron, Jeff
Confessional - Jenny, Samantha, Christian, Megan, Dominic, Jeff
Come On In - Christian, Megan
Another Season – Jenny
So Much to Hate - Jenny, Jeff
The Twitter Song – Evan
The Obstacle Course of Love - Byron, Megan, Christian, Samantha, Dominic, Jeff
It Feels Good - Megan, Samantha, Christian, Dominic
Crush Ceremony - Byron, Megan, Christian, Samantha, Dominic, Jeff
It Feels Good (reprise) - Jenny, Jeff, Partygoers
Matthew Four - Christian, Megan
Which Love is for Real (reprise) - Byron, Megan, Christian, Samantha, Jeff
Jeff's Confessional – Jeff
You Let Me In -Christian, Megan
I Think I Love You for Real - Jeff, Jenny
Finale - Company

REVIEW FEEDBACK

Highlight one of the responses below and click "copy" or"CTRL+C"

- I agree with the review of Nobody Loves You
- I disagree with the review of Nobody Loves You
- The review made me eager to see Nobody Loves You

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Nobody Loves You



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Heath Calvert as Byron (bottom) with Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz in the World Premiere musical Nobody Loves You, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, May 9 - June 17, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

Nobody Loves You, a new musical comedy now getting it's World Premiere at The Old Globe, may come off like *Glee* meets *Big Bang Theory* meets a trashy hetero couple reality show, but underneath it all, it's a pretty good show.

Reality television, as we can all attest, has taken over and all but squashed the sitcom, the hour-long drama and most of what television used to be. Sure it's fun to watch people, who have signed their lives away, unravel on national television. Or is it?

Our emotions are played like a fine concerto with the way these producers edit and finagle their casts to give us what we want to see, and that's exactly what *Nobody Loves You* spoofs, in a sense.

Writers Gaby Alter (*Band Geeks*, *Young Zombies In Love*) and Itmar Moses (*Completeness*, *Yellowjackets*) have a few other shows under their belts but nothing that may ring a bell to most. *Nobody Loves You* may be the piece that makes that bell ring.





Heath Calvert as Byron (center) with (from left) Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Lauren Molina in the World Premiere musical *Nobody Loves You*, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, May 9 - June 17, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

The story is about Jeff (Adam Kantor), an ontology student, whose girlfriend has just broken up with him because she finds she has to work too hard to make things work. She decides to leave him and go on the reality show *Nobody Love You*, in the hopes of finding someone she doesn't have to work so hard to connect with, or at least have a good time trying to find it.

The bookish Jeff, stunned by the out-of-the-blue-breakup, vows to change, but she leaves anyway. It's then that Jeff decides to follow her by submitting a videotape to the producers of *Nobody Loves You*, in hopes of getting on the show and winning her back.

It's a simple premise, and it works. The music and lyrics are fun, witty, and are all character driven. Some stick out more than others like *So Much To Hate* and *The Twitter Song*, and *Nobody Loves You* but it's really the individual actors that make these songs and the script work.

Kantor is great and thoroughly enjoyable. He's got a great voice, and he brings a lot of life into the role of Jeff, so much so that his performance band-aids some of the problems with the script. One glaring problem involves a potential love interest for Jeff. There's just not enough development with both characters to make it work and if you think about it too long it comes across as one-sided. His love interest needs a song, better dialogue or maybe a different actress to bring the character to life the way Kantor brings his to life.

Jenni Barber plays Jenny, a story editor on the reality show. She nails the mousy put upon gal Friday. She has a voice that soars, and is likeable enough, but her character is undeveloped much like most of the women in the show. These characters work in snippets, but because the men's roles are so real, so well played out, the women's roles pale by comparison. Again, this could be the writing, direction or the performers. They are all good, but they just seem to lose their steam.





Alex Brightman as Evan in the World Premiere musical *Nobody Loves You*, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, May 9 – June 17, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

Alex Brightman plays a few characters in the show, a stoner, a macho, fellow contestant on the show, and Evan, a fan obsessed with the

show. Of all of Brightman's characters it is the character of Evan that he seems to connect with most. His fearless portrayal as a blue-one-piece-sweat-suit-wearing-Twitter-obsessed-fan-of-the-show is dead on. His performance, along with Kantor, raises the bar for the rest of the

cast and keeps it raised until the final moments of the show.

Kelsey Kurz plays a few roles as well. However it's his role as Christian, a religious young man determined to spread the word of chastity, that is his biggest role and fits him like a glove. His endearing, energetic, and torn apart performance as a contestant on the show is a winner.

Rounding out the men in the cast is Heath Calvert who plays the Byron, the host of the reality show. Again, great voice, (especially in *Obstacle Course Of Love* and *Crush Ceremony*). He nails his character. His Byron is a hysterical cross between Bob Saget and Ryan Seacrest, with just enough smarm and stupidity to still be likeable.

Again, the women's performances are good, but are just not as fully realized as the men's. Lauren Molina, Nicole Lewis and Kate Morgan Chadwick play many characters throughout the show including fellow contestants on *Nobody Loves You*, but much like Barber's Jenny, something is missing that would make these roles, and the women who play them, really stand out.

Would Stephanie J. Block (*Wicked*, *9 to 5*) playing Jenny, or Megan Hilty (TV's *Smash*, *9 to 5*) as bad girl contestant Megan change that? Maybe, maybe not. However, that thought *did* come to mind and stayed there.

Nobody Loves You plays here at The Old Globe until June 17, and it is recommended that you see

it. It *is* a fun evening of theatre and song that charms and will make you laugh unexpectedly. What happens to the show from here isn't known, so see it now. Support the beginnings of this show now, here in San Diego. You won't be sorry you did.

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Globe announces "Nobody Loves You" team

World-premiere musical to be set in the world of reality television

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The cast of *Nobody Loves You*: (front row, from left) Kate Morgan Chadwick, Kelsey Kurz, Lauren Molina, Adam Kantor and Alex Brightman; (back row, from left) Heath Calvert, Nicole Lewis and Jenni Barber. The World Premiere of *Nobody Loves You*, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter, book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, runs May 9 - June 17, 2012 at The Old Globe. Henry DiRocco

By U-T San Diego

11:54 a.m., April 11, 2012

The Old Globe has announced the cast and creative team for its world-premiere musical comedy "Nobody Loves You," which features music and lyrics by Gaby Alter. The book and lyrics are by Itamar Moses, and it is set in the world of reality television.

A former Globe Playwright-in-Residence, Moses' "The Four of Us" (2007) and "Back Back Back" (2008) also had their world premieres at The Old Globe.

The cast of "Nobody Loves You" features Jenni Barber (Jenny), Alex

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Brightman (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), Heath Calvert (Byron), Kate Morgan Chadwick (Samantha, Bonnie), Adam Kantor (Jeff), Kelsey Kurz (Christian, Steve), Nicole Lewis (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and Lauren Molina (Megan).

The creative team includes Michael Schweikardt (Scenic Design), Emily Pepper (Costume Design), Tyler Micoleau (Lighting Design), Paul Peterson (Sound Design), Stephanie Klapper, CSA (Casting) and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

"Nobody Loves You" is supported in part through a gift from Production Sponsors Paula and Brian Powers.

"Nobody Loves You" is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award and is supported in part by the National Fund for New Musicals, a program of National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

Directed by Michelle Tattenbaum with music direction by Vadim Feichtner and choreography by Mandy Moore, "Nobody Loves You" will run May 9–June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center.

Preview performances run May 9–16. Opening night is May 17 at 8 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at theoldglobe.org or by phone at (619) 234-5623.

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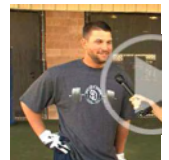
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Michelle Tattenbaum

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Tattenbaum said she enjoys everything about Moses' creative energy. "He's smart, funny, and has a mix of serious ideas and themes, which combined, make lots of laughs," she said. "I get his sense of humor, he cracks me up, and I get where his characters are at and what they are struggling with. With Moses' writing, I have an immediate access point into the characters."

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Filled with tuneful pop songs, 'Nobody Loves You' takes audiences on a behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life to ask the question: In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?

The cast includes Kelsey Kurz, Nicole Lewis, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber, Adam Kantor (and on floor, from left) Alex Brightman and Lauren Molina. Henry DiRocco.

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THEATER FEATURE

Old Globe, playwright team for 'Nobody Loves You'

By PAM KRAGEN

pkragen@nctimes.com

Playwright Itamar Moses said he can't remember a time in his life that he didn't know composer Gaby Alter.

The co-creators of The Old Globe's upcoming world premiere musical "Nobody Loves You" grew up together in Berkeley, where their families were so close, they shared Thanksgiving dinners, birthdays and Jewish holidays together.

"I think I was zero when I met him," the 35-year-old Moses said of Alter, who is three years his senior. "I remember that he was incredibly talented musically and I naturally idolized him."

So, when both men ended up in the New York theater district — Moses with several acclaimed plays under his belt ("Outrage," "Bach at Leipzig") and Alter with several musicals to his credit ("Band Geeks!" "29," "Young Zombies in Love") — they decided to collaborate on a musical that had a fun, pop culture sensibility. Their six-years-in-the-making project opened in previews Wednesday. It will be Moses'



The cast of "Nobody Loves You," a satiric musical about reality television making its world premiere at The Old Globe May 17. Courtesy of Henry DiRocco

third world premiere at the Globe ("The Four of Us" debuted in 2007, "Back Back"

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"Nobody Loves You" is a musical satire on America's

fascination with reality television. A skeptical philosophy student named Jeff joins the

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WHERE: Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, The Old Globe, Balboa Park, San Diego

TICKETS: \$39 and up

INFO: 619-234-5623; theoldglobe.org

cast of a dating-themed TV series where the 20something cast members must pair up in each episode or get kicked to the curb (with the cruel send-off "Nobody loves you"). Although Jeff has ulterior motives for signing on (he's hoping to win back his ex and expose the scripted fakery of reality" TV from within), he's seduced by the fame game and falls for a castmate.

Moses said he liked the idea of writing about reality television because it can be used so effectively to tell a story.

"Reality television is

compelling because it uses really old, tried-and-true storytelling techniques," Moses said. "There's a very rigorous, formulaic way of approaching each episode where the producers plan the story, put in the twists and turns and construct it from beginning to end. The only thing different between it and other forms of storytelling is that they're constructing their story from found footage."

Both Moses and Alter say they don't watch much television (the only reality TV shows they enjoy are those like "Project Runway," where the contestants use real skills to make something). But to research the subject, Moses spent dozens of hours watching "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette."

"I started watching them for research but I genuinely got sucked in," he said. "I know it's terrible and yet I can't look away. There's a line in the show where a character is asked, 'Are you above this or not?' I thought I was above it, but clearly I'm not above it."

See 'Nobody,' 24

'Nobody'

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Alter said Americans have a love/hate relationship with "horrifying" reality shows like "The Kardashians," which "is really just a show about rich young women that the audience is both jealous of and despise at the same time."

The musical — book by Moses, score by Alter and lyrics by both — had its first reading in Cape Cod in 2008, and has gone through four more drafts since then, including a workshop reading last year in Connecticut. The version Globe audiences will see has changed substantially since then.

Alter said he and Moses went into this project hoping it would be fun, and fortunately their longtime friendship has only helped the collaborative process.

"We're very much on the same wavelength," Alter said.

"We have similar senses of humor, and a lot of our cultural references are the same. So I think he's hilarious and I get his stuff immediately. There's also a lot of trust between us, and neither one of us is particularly drawn to conflict. We've had disagreements, but we're open and receptive to each other's ideas and that's been refreshing."

One challenge for the duo has been getting the tone right for the characters. "It's a delicate thing," Moses said. "On the one hand, it's a satire, but on the other, we must care about these characters. So we're trying to make it funny in a way that's smart and good-natured, not mean-spirited."

One of the questions that most interested Moses was what causes seemingly rational reality show contestants to surrender their grip and start believing they're actually in love with someone they've known for only a few hours or days? He thinks it

has something to do with the heightened reality of the setting — candles, hot tubs, alcohol and willing partners — and the competitive nature of the shows themselves.

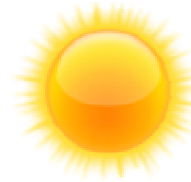
"It's a hard mindset to get inside of," Moses said. "On these shows, everyone's competing for the attention of one person. We're animals, and our brains release all these crazy chemicals in this sort of situation. It triggers our ancient lizard brain and we play along, even when our mind is telling us it's not real."

Although "Nobody Loves You" is about the concept of reality and television, director Michelle Tattenbaum has decided the Globe's in-the-round production will not have any real televisions or video.

"First of all if you put a screen onstage, it trumps reality, and we wanted to keep it theatrical," Moses said. "Plus if you ever put a TV on a set, the audiences' eyes are automatically drawn to it, even if it's turned off, because they're conditioned to think if they don't watch it, they'll miss something."

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Globe, playwright team for third premiere with musical 'Nobody Loves You'

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Itamar Moses (book and lyrics) and Gaby Alter (music and lyrics) are the co-writers of "Nobody Loves You," a satiric musical about reality television making its world premiere at The Old Globe May 17. Courtesy of Henry DiRocco.

8 hours ago • [By PAM KRAGEN](#) pkragen@nctimes.com

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"Nobody Loves You" is a musical satire on America's fascination with reality television. A skeptical philosophy student named Jeff joins the cast of a dating-themed TV series where the 20something cast members must pair up in each episode or get kicked to the curb (with the cruel send-off "Nobody loves you"). Although Jeff has ulterior motives for signing on (he's hoping to win back his ex and expose the scripted fakery of reality TV from within), he's seduced by the fame game and falls for a castmate.

Moses said he liked the idea of writing about reality television because it can be used so effectively to tell a story.

"Reality television is compelling because it uses really old, tried-and-true storytelling techniques," Moses said. "There's a very rigorous, formulaic way of approaching each episode where the producers plan the story, put in the twists and turns and construct it from beginning to end. The only thing different between it and other forms of storytelling is that they're constructing their story from found footage."

Both Moses and Alter say they don't watch much television (the only reality TV shows they enjoy are those like "Project Runway," where the contestants use real skills to make something). But to research the subject, Moses spent dozens of hours watching "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette."

"I started watching them for research but I genuinely got sucked in," he said. "I know it's terrible and yet I can't look away. There's a line in the show where a character is asked, 'Are you above this or not?' I thought I was above it, but clearly I'm not above it."

Alter said Americans have a love/hate relationship with "horrifying" reality shows like "The Kardashians," which "is really just a show about rich young women that the audience is both jealous of and despise at the same time."

The musical ---- book by Moses, score by Alter and lyrics by both ---- had its first reading in Cape Cod in 2008, and has gone through four more drafts since then, including a workshop reading last year in Connecticut. The version Globe audiences will see has changed substantially since then.

Alter said he and Moses went into this project hoping it would be fun, and fortunately their longtime friendship has only helped the collaborative process.

"We're very much on the same wavelength," Alter said. "We have similar senses of humor, and a lot of our cultural references are the same. So I think he's hilarious and I get his stuff immediately."

There's also a lot of trust between us, and neither one of us is particularly drawn to conflict. We've had disagreements, but we're open and receptive to each other's ideas and that's been refreshing."

One challenge for the duo has been getting the tone right for the characters. "It's a delicate thing," Moses said. "On the one hand, it's a satire, but on the other, we must care about these characters. So we're trying to make it funny in a way that's smart and good-natured, not mean-spirited."

One of the questions that most interested Moses was what causes seemingly rational reality show contestants to surrender their grip and start believing they're actually in love with someone they've known for only a few hours or days? He thinks it has something to do with the heightened reality of the setting ---- candles, hot tubs, alcohol and willing partners ---- and the competitive nature of the shows themselves.

"It's a hard mindset to get inside of," Moses said. "On these shows, everyone's competing for the attention of one person. We're animals, and our brains release all these crazy chemicals in this sort of situation. It triggers our ancient lizard brain and we play along, even when our mind is telling us it's not real."

Although "Nobody Loves You" is about the concept of reality and television, director Michelle Tattenbaum has decided the Globe's in-the-round production will not have any real televisions or video.

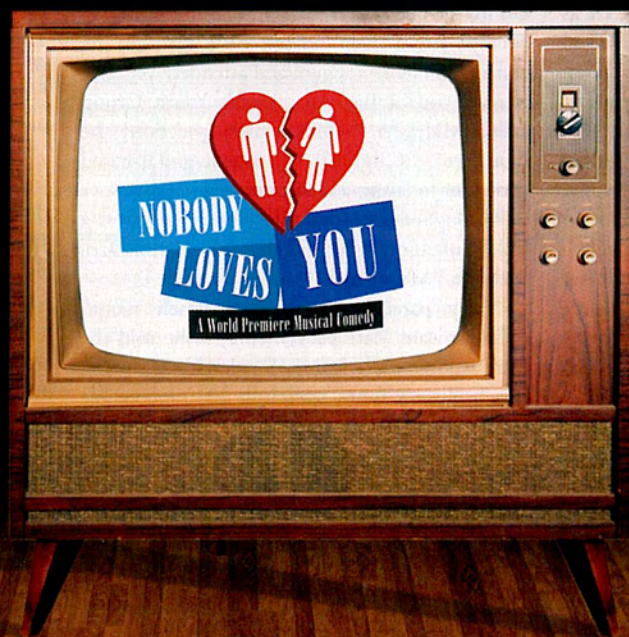
"First of all if you put a screen onstage, it trumps reality, and we wanted to keep it theatrical," Moses said. "Plus if you ever put a TV on a set, the audiences' eyes are automatically drawn to it, even if it's turned off, because they're conditioned to think if they don't watch it, they'll miss something."

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THREE JEWS WALK INTO A ROOM... AND CREATE A MUSICAL

THE WORLD PREMIERE OF "NOBODY LOVES YOU"
OPENS AT THE OLD GLOBE • BY PAT LAUNER

OKAY, FESS UP. ONE OF YOUR GUILTY PLEASURES IS REALITY TV. WHETHER IT'S FOOD OR FASHION, CATFIGHTS, CELEBS OR SURVIVAL, THERE'S SOMETHING APPEALING AND APPALLING THAT COMPELS YOU TO KEEP COMING BACK TO THESE PROLIFERATING PROGRAMS.



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This question comes up repeatedly in the new musical, which Moses is creating with two fellow 30-something Yalies: composer/co-lyricist Gaby Alter and director Michelle Tattenbaum. All share a love of theater, music and a strong Jewish background.

MOSES IN THE PROMISED LAND

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PHOTOS BY HENRY DIROCCO

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The cast of "Nobody Loves You": (front row, from left) Kate Morgan Chadwick, Kelsey Kurz, Lauren Molina, Adam Kantor and Alex Brightman; (back row, from left) Heath Calvert, Nicole Lewis and Jenni Barber.

Meanwhile, Moses put in two years' time writing for television ("Men of a Certain Age" and "Boardwalk Empire"). And when he thought about getting together with Gaby Alter, he says, "I had this notion of reality TV in a musical context. What it means to the culture and its effect." And a partnership was born.

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One of the themes of the show, according to Alter, is "differentiating false emotional highs from real ones. It's a lesson we all have to keep learning. It's so easy to get seduced — by TV or fast food or, as in the case of one character, alcohol. Our culture is so bound up in an obsession with quick, easy highs. You have to guard against that."

"And the musical is also about opening up to someone, someone who's right even if not the flashiest option."

Like Moses, Alter lives in the Park Slope area of Brooklyn. And walking distance away, in the nearby neighborhood of Prospect Heights, is their college friend, Michelle Tattenbaum, the director who's helming the new work and bringing it to life on the Old Globe stage.

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

Director Michelle Tattenbaum first met Itamar Moses when she cast him in her senior thesis project at Yale — coincidentally, an intellectually challenging play by Tom Stoppard, "Arcadia."

"He sent me a really passionate note about why he wanted to be in the show," Tattenbaum recalls. "That email presaged the way I connect to him as a writer."

And connect she does.

Moses considers her "one of the people I most trust to understand what I put on the page and make it come alive."

Tattenbaum has directed four Moses plays: three world premieres and a Los Angeles premiere. For the past five years, she's been intimately involved in the evolution of this new show, primarily serving as dramaturge. And that's

a perfect fit for her, since she spent three years at the Manhattan Theatre Club focused on the development of new musicals.

"When we first started working on it," Tattenbaum says of "Nobody Loves You" (originally called "Reality!"), "I said, 'Hurry up! This reality TV thing won't be around forever.' Now it's so obvious it's not a short-lived, trendy way of pseudo-documentary storytelling.

"Right now, in our culture, we really want stories to be true. We'd rather it be real than something from someone's imagination. Because we hope our own stories are a perfect narrative, too, with a clear-cut beginning, middle and end.

"The other big thread in the show — also very timely right now — is our obsession with fame as an end unto itself, not necessarily achieved because of any particular accomplishment. As we've seen so many times, the chance to be adored by the unnamed millions messes with your head and makes the important things you know fly out the window.

"But at bottom," Tattenbaum concedes, "it's a romantic comedy. With something deeper to say."

Tattenbaum will shepherd a cast of eight, accompanied by four musicians, situated below the White's arena stage.

"It's a big show," she says. "There are many different locations, which we'll represent with lighting, sound, costumes and staging." These are skills she honed during two Drama League directing fellowships.

Her early years were spent in Newton, a suburb of Boston, where her observant family attended Temple Israel, a Reform congregation. Her older sister is a Reform rabbi, director of the Center for Jewish Culture at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. Her brother-in-law is a professor of Judaic studies at Brown University.

She attended Hebrew school through 12th grade and was actively involved in Hillel at Yale. Every year, she continues to read the Torah at the temple, on Rosh Hashanah. Tattenbaum taught Hebrew school for six years, both at a synagogue and through private tutoring. Now, with a 2½-year-old (she's the only married one of the three collaborators), she'll have her own home tutoring to do. Her daughter is off to a strong start; she memorized the first of the Four Questions — in Hebrew, in song — for this year's Seder. Not surprisingly, Tattenbaum's favorite non-research reality TV show is "Super Nanny."

The freelance director currently lives in Brooklyn, within walking distance of both her twin sister and her mother, not to mention, conveniently, her two collaborators.

With this level of collective wit, talent and intelligence, it's likely that "Nobody Loves You" will be smart and funny. And (subtly or not), Jewish. ☆

• The world premiere of the musical "Nobody Loves You" runs May 9-June 17 in the Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park.

Regular performances are Tuesday-Wednesday at 7 p. m., Thursday-Friday at 8 p. m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p. m. and Sunday at 2 and 7 p. m. There's a 2 p. m. matinee on Wednesday, June 6; no matinee performance on Saturday, June 9.

Tickets (prices start at \$29, with discounts for previews, seniors, full-time students and those 29 years of age and under) are available at (619) 234-5623 or at www.theoldglobe.org.

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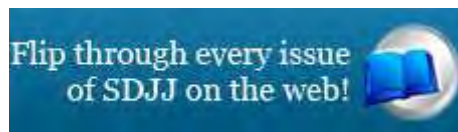
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Three Jews Walk into a Room...and Create a Musical

by Pat Launer | [May 2012](#) | [Post your comment »](#)

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By Pat Launer

Okay, fess up. One of your guilty pleasures is Reality TV. Whether it's food or fashion, catfights, celebs or survival, there's something appealing and appalling that compels you to keep coming back to these proliferating programs.

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“It’s very powerful. There’s a sense of voyeurism, a mix of the public and the private. But the whole idea of ‘Can you believe anything that’s on reality TV?’ leads to a cynical distrust of the culture — and of love. Ultimately, the characters learn that there is such a thing as real life, and real emotions that are internal and can’t be filmed.”

Alter sees “Nobody Loves You” as “a very Jewish show, just not explicitly. The sense of humor will be very familiar to Jewish people. The central character, Jeff, is a very cerebral, very Jewish type of guy who defends himself against the stupidity of pop culture but then gets sucked into it. He’s played by a wonderful Jewish actor, Adam Kantor, who’s like a ‘Jewish dreamboat,’ really Jewish and really handsome — with a really great voice.”

One of the themes of the show, according to Alter, is “differentiating false emotional highs from real ones. It’s a lesson we all have to keep learning. It’s so easy to get seduced — by TV or fast food or, as in the case of one character, alcohol. Our culture is so bound up in an obsession with quick, easy highs. You have to guard against that.

“And the musical is also about opening up to someone, someone that’s right even if not the flashiest option.”

Like Moses, Alter lives in the Park Slope area of Brooklyn. And walking distance away, in the nearby neighborhood of Prospect Heights, is their college friend, Michelle Tattenbaum, the director who's helming the new work and bringing it to life on the Old Globe stage.

Pulling it all Together

Director Michelle Tattenbaum first met Itamar Moses when she cast him in her senior thesis project at Yale — coincidentally, an intellectually challenging play by Tom Stoppard, “Arcadia.”

“He sent me a really passionate note about why he wanted to be in the show,” Tattenbaum recalls. “That email presaged the way I connect to him as a writer.”

And connect she does.

Moses considers her “one of the people I most trust to understand what I put on the page and make it come alive.”

Tattenbaum has directed four Moses plays: three world premieres and a Los Angeles premiere. For the past five years, she's been intimately involved in the evolution of this new show, primarily serving as dramaturge. And that's a perfect fit for her, since she spent three years at the Manhattan Theatre Club focused on the development of new musicals.

“When we first started working on it,” Tattenbaum says of “Nobody Loves You” (originally called “Reality!”), “I said, ‘Hurry up!’ This reality TV thing won't be around forever.’ Now it's so obvious it's not a short-lived, trendy way of pseudo-documentary storytelling.

“Right now, in our culture, we really want stories to be true. We'd rather it be real than something from someone's imagination. Because we hope our own stories are a perfect narrative, too, with a clear-cut beginning, middle and end.

“The other big thread in the show — also very timely right now — is our obsession with fame as an end unto itself, not necessarily achieved because of any particular accomplishment. As we've seen so many times, the chance to be adored by the unnamed millions messes with your head and makes the important things you know fly out the window.

“But at bottom,” Tattenbaum concedes, “it's a romantic comedy. With something deeper to say.”

Tattenbaum will shepherd a cast of eight, accompanied by four musicians, situated below the White's arena stage.

“It's a big show,” she says. “There are many different locations, which we'll represent with lighting, sound, costumes and staging.” These are skills she honed during two Drama League directing fellowships.

Her early years were spent in Newton, a suburb of Boston, where her observant family attended Temple Israel, a Reform congregation. Her older sister is a reform Rabbi, director of the Center for Jewish Culture at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. Her brother-in-law is a professor of Judaic studies at Brown University.

She attended Hebrew school through 12th grade and was actively involved in Hillel at Yale. Every year, she continues to read the Torah at the temple, on Rosh Hashanah. Tattenbaum taught Hebrew school for six years, both at a synagogue and through private tutoring. Now, with a 2½-year-old (she's the only married one of the

three collaborators), she'll have her own home tutoring to do. Her daughter is off to a strong start; she memorized the first of the Four Questions — in Hebrew, in song — for this year's Seder. Not surprisingly, Tattenbaum's favorite non-research reality TV show is "Super Nanny."

The freelance director currently lives in Brooklyn, within walking distance of both her twin sister and her mother, not to mention, conveniently, her two collaborators.

With this level of collective wit, talent and intelligence, it's likely that "Nobody Loves You" will be smart and funny. And (subtly or not), Jewish.

The world premiere of the musical "Nobody Loves You" runs May 9-June 17 in the Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in Balboa Park.

Regular performances are Tuesday-Wednesday at 7 p. m., Thursday-Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. There's a 2 p.m. matinee on Wednesday, June 6; no matinee performance on Saturday, June 9.

Tickets (prices start at \$29, with discounts for previews, seniors, full-time students and those 29 years of age and under) are available at (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623) or at www.theoldglobe.org.



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A funny and irreverent World Premiere musical romantic comedy from the award-winning creative team of playwright Itamar Moses (Bach at Leipzig) and Gaby Alter (Band Geeks!). Filled with tuneful pop songs, Nobody Loves You is about the search for real love on the set of a reality television show. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a reality show to try and win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and blows the game wide open. Seduced by fame, will Jeff find the courage to trade the love of his fans for the love of his life?

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CAST**Jenni Barber as Jenny**

Jenni Barber was previously seen at the Globe in Burt Bacharach and Steven Sater's original musical *Some Lovers*. Her theater credits include Sam Mendes' Bridge Project productions of *As You Like It* and *The Tempest* (Brooklyn Academy of Music/*The Old Vic*), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Broadway), *From Up Here* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Cactus Flower* (Off Broadway, Westside Theatre), *The Wii Plays* (Ars Nova) and *The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown* (Orange County Performing Arts Center). Her television credits include "Smash," "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and Lisa on the multiple-Emmy Award-winning "The Electric Company" (PBS). She is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music.

**Alex Brightman as Chazz, Dominic, Evan**

Alex Brightman is making his Globe debut. His Broadway credits include Boq in *Wicked* and Will and Jack in *Glory Days*. His recent credits include the World Premiere of *35mm* (Galapagos Art Space), *The Secret Garden* (TheatreWorks), *Next to Normal* (Pioneer Theatre Company) and the Los Angeles regional premiere of *The History Boys*. He has appeared on television in "Royal Pains" (USA) and "Important Things with Demetri Martin" (Comedy Central). Upcoming, Brightman will be seen in the film *Change of Plans*.

**Heath Calvert ([official website](#)) as Byron**

Heath Calvert is thrilled to be making his Globe debut. He has most recently been busy with presentations of *Love's Labours Lost* (The Public Theater), *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion* and *Suprema* (The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center), *Next Thing You Know* (CAP21), *Pretty Filthy* (The Civilians, Center Theater Group) and Joe Iconis' *Bloodsong of Love*. He has performed in concert with Tony Award winner William Finn in his *Songs by Ridiculously Talented Composers and Lyricists You Probably Don't Know But Should...* and in numerous concert engagements of *The Beat Goes On* and *Leading Men of Broadway* with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, National Arts Centre and Edmonton, Baltimore, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Nashville and Phoenix Symphonies. His Broadway credits include *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, the Tony Award-winning revival of *Hair* and *Good Vibrations*. His television credits include "Guiding Light," "The Early Show" and "The View." Calvert has also blogged for The Huffington Post. Next

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he is headed to Washington, DC for The Studio Theatre's production of Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson.

[Kate Morgan Chadwick \(official website\)](#) as Samantha, Bonnie Kate Morgan Chadwick has appeared as Frenchy in the Broadway National Tours of Grease, Ali in Mamma Mia! (Las Vegas), The Butcherhouse Chronicles (Summer Play Festival), Stupid Kids (The Red Room) and Perfect Harmony (Theatre Row). Her television credits include ABC's "Happy Endings" and the series "Whatever." She received a B.A. in Theatre from Fordham University and trains at Upright Citizens Brigade. Chadwick resides in Los Angeles with her real life amazing fiancé, Clayton. Thanks to her wonderful parents, David and Michele.



[Adam Kantor](#) as Jeff

Adam Kantor is thrilled to be making his Globe debut and to be working in San Diego. Immediately after graduating from Northwestern University, Kantor was cast as Mark in the final company of Rent on Broadway, the final performance of which was filmed live for DVD. Shortly after he guest starred as Ezra on "The Good Wife" on CBS. Subsequently he went on to perform as Henry in Next to Normal on Broadway and then Princeton in Avenue Q Off Broadway. Kantor is a co-founder of the non-profit arts education organization Broadway in South Africa.



[Kelsey Kurz](#) as Christian, Steve

Kelsey Kurz was featured at the Globe last year in Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show. He has appeared on Broadway and Off Broadway in The Merchant of Venice (The Public Theater), Davy & Stu (The Ensemble Studio Theatre) and I Coulda Been a Kennedy (2006 New York International Fringe Festival). His regional credits include Sons of the Prophet (Huntington Theatre Company) and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers and Cat Ballou (Jackson Hole Playhouse). He has appeared in the films Spartan King (in post-production) and A Time to Speak (in post-production). He trained at The Juilliard School.



[Nicole Lewis](#) as Tanya, Nina, Zenobia

Nicole Lewis is honored to be making her Globe debut. Her Broadway credits include Hair (Tony Award Best Revival of a Musical), Rent and Lennon. Off Broadway she has played Isabella in Measure for Measure (The Public Theater), Happiness (Lincoln Center Theater workshop), Boy Gets Girl (Manhattan Theatre Club) and The Me Nobody Knows (New York City workshop). Regionally she has played Susan in David Mamet's Race (Philadelphia Theatre Company), Ann Deever in All My

Sons (Intiman Theatre), Constant Star (Hartford Stage), Miranda in The Tempest (Williamstown Theatre Festival, Act I Company) and The Threepenny Opera and Tartuffe (American Conservatory Theater), as well as Once on This Island, Children of Eden and The Wiz (Weathervane Theatre). Her television and film credits include "A Gifted Man," "Blue Bloods," "As the World Turns" (CBS), "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," "Mercy" (NBC), "Naked Brothers Band" (Nickelodeon) and London Betty. She received a B.A. from Yale University and an M.F.A. from American Conservatory Theater.



[Lauren Molina \(official website\)](#) as Megan

Lauren Molina has appeared on Broadway, originating the roles of Regina in Rock of Ages and Johanna in the revival of Sweeney Todd directed by John Doyle. Most recently, she played Cunegonde in Candide directed by Mary Zimmerman, receiving the Helen Hayes Award for Best Lead Actress, Resident Musical and an IRNE Award nomination (Huntington Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre and The Shakespeare Theatre Company). Off Broadway she has been seen in Rock of Ages, Next Thing You Know and Ernest in Love. Her tour and regional credits include Sweeney Todd, winning an IRNE Award for Best Supporting Actress, Musical (First National Tour, American Conservatory Theater) and Ten Cents a Dance (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Her folk pop album Sea for Two features the song "Sky and the Sea," which appeared on NBC's "Parenthood." A featured singer in The Ladies Who Sing Sondheim (with Barbara Cook, Patti LuPone and Kristin Chenoweth), she also performed with Sarah Brightman on the La Luna tour. She received a B.F.A. from the University of Michigan. She's a co-creator of the documentary webseries Rock of Ages Productions.

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World Premiere "Nobody Loves You" comes to the Old Globe Theatre



The cast of *Nobody Loves You*: (standing, from left) Kelsey Kurz, Nicole Lewis, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber, Adam Kantor; (on floor, from left) Alex Brightman and Lauren Molina. Photo credit: Photo by Henry DiRocco



Slideshow: [The Old Globe presents the world premiere of Nobody Loves You](#)

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Reality television comes to the stage in the World Premiere musical, *Nobody Loves You*, at The Old Globe. Today the Globe announced the cast and creative team for this musical comedy which will run May 9 – June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

Nobody Loves You, a musical comedy set in the world of reality television. If anything can happen on television, then Jeff, a philosophy grad student, can win back his ex on a dating show. While he tries to blow the whole thing wide open and break all the rules, he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection? This show takes the audience behind the scenes of reality television and into real life with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses.

The cast of *Nobody Loves You* includes Jenni Barber (Jenny), Alex Brightman (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), Heath Calvert (Byron), Kate Morgan Chadwick (Samantha, Bonnie), Adam Kantor (Jeff), Kelsey Kurz (Christian, Steve), Nicole Lewis (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and Lauren Molina (Megan).

Itamar Moses is a former Globe Playwright-in-Residence and two his other shows, *The Four of Us* (2007) and *Back Back Back* (2008) also had their World Premieres at The Old Globe. Moses' work has appeared in New York, Canada, and at regional theatres across the US. On television, Moses has written for both TNT's "Men of a Certain Age" and HBO's "Boardwalk Empire."

Gaby Alter is a songwriter and composer and has written, among other things, the music and lyrics for *Band Geeks!* (with Tommy Newman, Mark Allen and Gordon Greenberg) which premiered at Goodspeed Musicals and will be produced this summer at The Human Race Theatre Company. He has written songs for television and radio including MTV, PBS and the theme for NPR's show "Backstory." He scored and starred in the documentary **Nerdcore Rising**, which premiered at the South by Southwest Film Festival. You can find this documentary on [Netflix Instant Watch](#) (<http://netflix.com>) and [Hulu.com](#) (<http://Hulu.com>).

Nobody Loves You is supported in part through a gift from Production Sponsors Paula and Brian Powers and is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award. It is supported in part by the National Fund for New Musicals, a program of National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

Tickets to *Nobody Loves You* can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org (<http://theoldglobe.org>). Ticket prices start at \$29 and discounts are available for full-time students, patrons 29 years of age and under, seniors and groups of 10 or more.

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Erin Marie is a dedicated theater attendee, theatre performer and worker, a dedicated talker, and has a lifelong passion for theater. She loves to tell everyone about the world class and varied theater offerings San Diego has year round! Send feedback or questions to sdtheater.examiner@gmail.com.

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reality

Globe's rock musical about a TV show zooms in on the gap between love and how we see it

The Old Globe Theatre's "Nobody Loves You" almost certainly marks the first time the Twitter term "hashtag" will pop up in a major stage production.

But civilization will have to wait a bit longer for the first great social-media musical, because this world-premiere work is actually about another pervasive cultural phenomenon, one that's practically antique by comparison: reality TV.

As inescapable as "unscripted television" (to use the business' preferred euphemism) might be, it's not a topic that has figured much into musical theater so far, unless maybe you count the likes of "Jerry Springer: The Opera."

But the creators of "Nobody Loves You" admit to a complex, love-it-and-loath-it relationship with reality TV — one that closet watchers of "The Bachelorette" or "Jersey Shore" or (say it ain't so) "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" probably can relate to.

The rock musical they've crafted — which features its very own reality show-within-a-show — isn't meant to trash the genre (not completely, anyway), but to explore why it has a such a powerful hold on our nation's brains.

"On one level, we're really critical of it, and we feel it can be really trashy," says Itamar Moses, the much-admired young playwright now doing his first fully produced musical.

SEE 'NOBODY' • E6

"Nobody Loves You"

Old Globe Theatre

When: In previews.

Opens May 17.

Performances:

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Wednesdays; 8 p.m.

Thursdays-Fridays;

2 and 8 p.m.

Saturdays; 2 and 7

p.m. Sundays (no

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June 6. Through

June 17.

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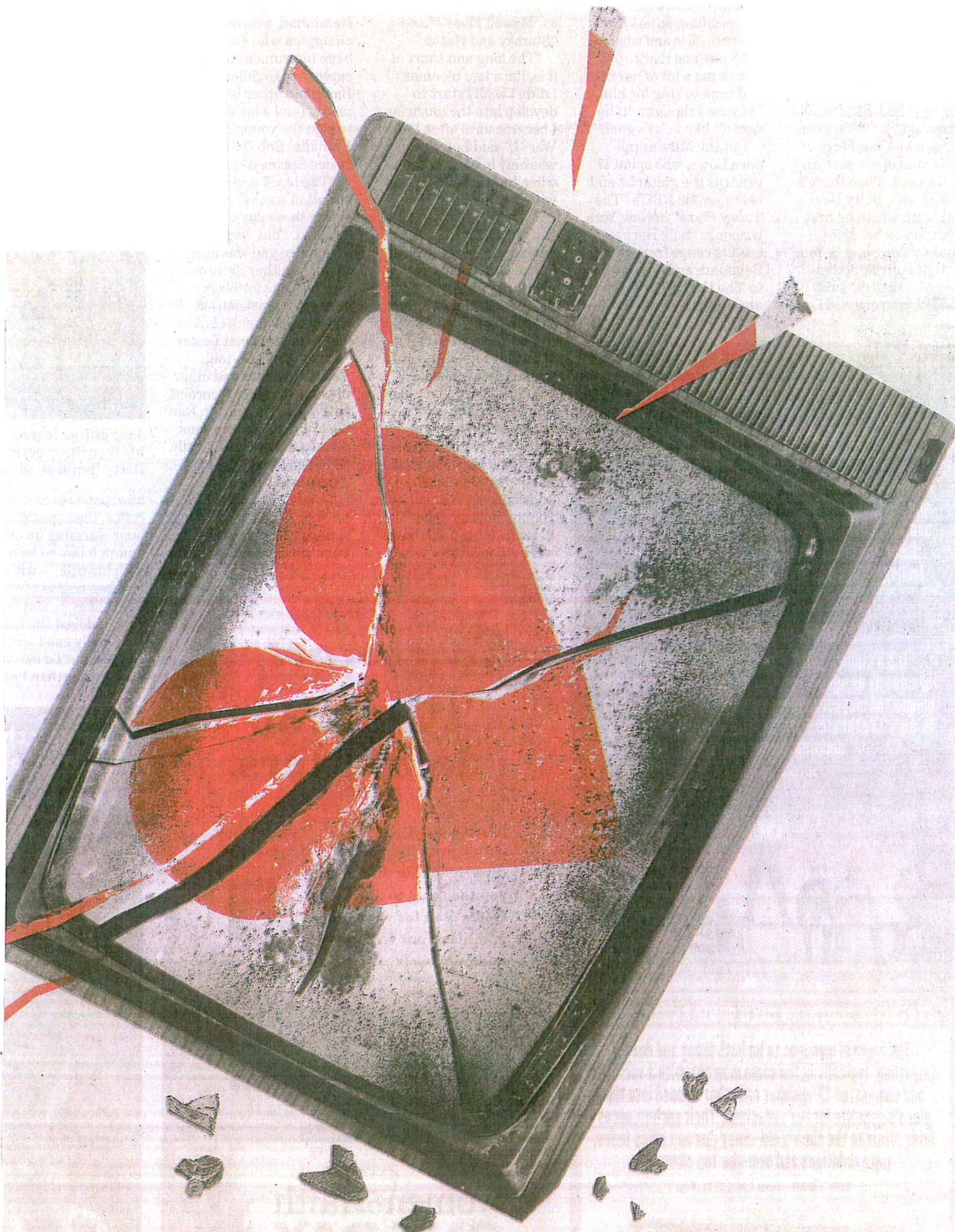
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'NOBODY' • Play isn't just about reality TV, but also about love's reality vs. misconceptions

Other examples of TV's theater stage presence

The world of television might not be portrayed as frequently in the theater as other aspects of showbiz. But some plays have taken up the tube as a topic. A sampling:

- **"The Farnsworth Invention":** "West Wing" writer Aaron Sorkin's fact-based play about the invention of television was developed as a Page to Stage workshop at La Jolla Playhouse in 2007; it opened on Broadway in 2008.
- **"Hairspray":** The hit musical's plot revolves around the racial integration of the fictional early-'60s TV dance program "The Corny Collins Show."
- **"Jerry Springer: The Opera":** The British stage takeoff on the caustic TV talk show has provoked protests pretty much everywhere it has been produced (not a surprise for a show that includes a troupe of tap-dancing Klan members).
- **"Night and her Stars":** Richard Greenberg's 1995 work focuses on the television quiz-show scandals of the 1950s.
- **"The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity":** Kristoffer Diaz's play, a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2010, is set in the subculture of televised pro wrestling.

FROM E1

"And yet I can't stop watching it. And how can both of those things be true?"

Anyway, Moses says, "Nobody Loves You" isn't meant to be just about TV. It's also about "the question of what love is, and the gap between (its reality) and how we see it, or the stories we hear. Reality television is just a lens to look at that."

The fictional TV program that Moses, composer Gaby Alter and director Michelle Tattenbaum have dreamed up is a reality dating show with the same title as the musical (fans in the play shorthand it as "NLY"). The musical's action revolves around that show and how it figures into the frayed bonds between the two main characters.

"Basically, it's about a guy (played by Adam Kantor) whose girlfriend (Jenni Barber) dumps him, partly because she has — at least in his mind — a sort of idealized vision of what love is supposed to be, fueled by the images of it she sees



on reality TV," Moses says. "And in particular on this reality show we invented."

"And then he learns she's planning to try and be a contestant on this show. So he pursues her and tries to be a contestant also. But when he arrives, he discovers they've chosen him and not her."

"It's essentially about a guy who hates reality television, being on reality television. Which allows us to sort of have it both ways."

New frontiers

"Nobody Loves You" marks a shift in direction for the former Globe playwright-in-residence in ways quite apart from it being his first fully staged musical.

The Berkeley native is best known for plays that delve into the delicate power dynamics among friends — most famously in the off-Broadway work "The Four of Us," an ingeniously constructed piece that was informed by the playwright's own friendship with the novelist Jonathan Safran Foer ("Everything Is Illuminated").

The theme also popped up in "Back Back Back," a play about baseball's steroids scandal whose main characters were patterned after three real-life players (although the names were changed). That piece had its world premiere at the Globe in 2009; "The Four of Us" had a pre-New York Globe production in 2007.

But the concerns that drove those works are "less (present) in this show," Moses says, chatting alongside Tattenbaum and Alter during a rehearsal break. "There was a whole period in my work when I was writing about that over and over again."

"I think a shift has taken

"Nobody Loves You"
cast: (in back, from left) Kelsey Kurz, Nicole Lewis, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor; (on floor) Alex Brightman and Lauren Molina. HENRY DIROCCO

place, starting with a collection of short plays Michelle directed in New York called 'Love/Stories' — five short plays about ill-fated relationship situations.

"In both 'Back Back Back' and 'The Four of Us,' one of the primary things they talk about is their relationships with offstage women," he adds. "In a way, this is taking that sort of romantic (aspect) and moving it to the center."

Then, in a sly bit of self-effacement: "It's this new genre I invented, where it's romance, but comedy ensues. I think it's really going to catch on!"

If there's much creative tension among this trio, who've known each other for years, it's not readily apparent in conversation (although Moses helpfully suggests that a reporter add some lurid phrasing about "the dark glances that belied" their seeming congeniality).

The three have a little fun, too, at the often agonizing process of creating a musical. Moses and Alter — a songwriter whose credits include the musical "Band Geeks!" — began hashing out this one in the playwright's Brooklyn apartment five years ago.

When Tattenbaum, a former Manhattan Theatre Club artistic staffer and busy director, talks of how Twitter and other cultural phenomena popped up during the long development process, Moses chimes in sardonically: "And there's no faster way to respond to what's happening right now than by writing a musical!"

The names behind 'Nobody Loves You'

Itamar Moses

Role: Playwright

Credits: "The Four of Us," "Back Back Back" (Old Globe world premiere, 2009)

Reality show of the moment: "Face Off" (about special-effects makeup artists)

Gaby Alter

Role: Composer

Credits: "Band Geeks!"

Reality show of the moment: "Project Runway"

Michelle Tattenbaum

Role: Director

Credits: "The Four of Us," "The Sublet Experiment"

Reality show of the moment: Any program where "an expert comes in and fixes clueless screw-ups."

Jenni Barber

Role: Plays Jenny (female lead)

Credits: "Some Lovers" (Old Globe world premiere, 2011); "From Up Here" (off-Broadway)

Reality show of the moment: Cooking-related shows such as "Top Chef" and "Chopped," where "it's actually about the game and not (as much) about the drama."

Adam Kantor

Role: Plays Jeff (male lead)

Credits: "Rent," "Next to Normal," "Avenue Q" (all Broadway)

Reality show of the moment: "Much like my character, I don't watch reality tv unless it's research for this show. Hmmm"

Actually, Alter says, there was some outside concern early on that the world might wind up moving faster than the wheels of musical theater.

"People at the beginning of the process said, 'You should really write this quickly, because reality TV (will be gone),' " he recalls. "But it's not a fad anymore. It's just what's taken over."

Tattenbaum talks of the complications in creating a reality show that seems real enough to be credible yet still fits the narrative demands of the play that's built around it. Part of that, too, is suggesting the allure of what's happening on the flickering screen without relying on actual television images.

"There is no video at all," she says of the production, which features an offstage band and choreography by Mandy Moore (TV's "So You Think You Can Dance"). "And that was really important to me from the very beginning. A lot of people

at the beginning said, 'You have to talk to this or that amazing projection designer.'

"But if we started doing a lot with video, it would seem lame compared with actual reality-TV shots. We're not trying to do that. I was always adamant that we use theatrical language to evoke television."

Still, is there any chance "NLY" might spin off from the musical and land on TV, the way that an actual Broadway musical supposedly may result from NBC-TV's Broadway-centric drama "Smash"?

Not so much, Moses says.

The tone of "NLY" is "right for our musical, but as an actual TV show, it's neither trashy enough nor serious enough," he says.

And on reality television, nobody loves you without some serious trash.

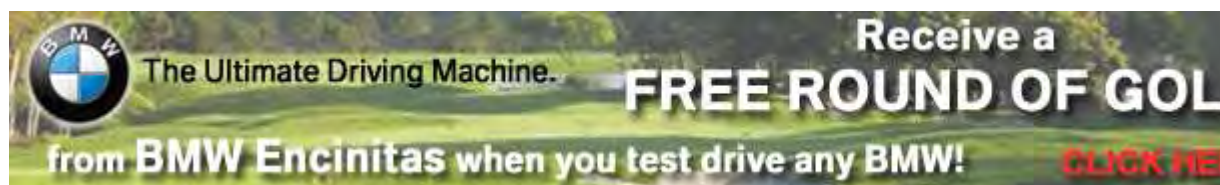
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Theater preview: A musical reality check

Globe's 'Nobody Loves You' looks at romance through lens of unscripted TV[Comments \(0\)](#)

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Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor (left to right) star in the Old Globe's world-premiere musical "Nobody Loves You." — Henry DiRocco



Written by
James

The Old Globe Theatre's "Nobody Loves You" almost certainly marks the first time the Twitter term "hashtag" will pop up in a major stage

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As inescapable as "unscripted television" (to use the business' preferred euphemism) might be, it's not a topic that has figured much into musical theater so far, unless maybe you count the likes of "Jerry Springer: The Opera."

But the creators of "Nobody Loves You" admit to a complex, love-it-and-loath-it relationship with reality TV — one that closet watchers of "The Bachelorette" or "Jersey Shore" or (say it ain't so) "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" probably can relate to.

The rock musical they've crafted — which features its very own reality show-within-a-show — isn't meant to trash the genre (not completely, anyway), but to explore why it has a such a powerful hold on our nation's brains.

"On one level, we're really critical of it, and we feel it can be really trashy," says Itamar Moses, the much-admired young playwright now doing his first fully produced musical. "And yet I can't stop watching it. And how can both of those things be true?"

Anyway, Moses says, "Nobody Loves You" isn't meant to be just about TV. It's also about "the question of what love is, and the gap between (its reality) and how we see it, or the stories we hear. Reality television is just a lens to look at that."

The fictional TV program that Moses, composer Gaby Alter and

"Nobody Loves You"

Old Globe Theatre

When: In previews. Opens May 17.
Performances: 7 p.m. Tuesdays-Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays (no matinee today or June 9); plus 2 p.m. June 6. Through June 17.

Where: Sheryl and Harvey Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park.

Tickets: Approximately \$29-\$72 (subject to change)

Phone: (619) 234-5623

Online: theoldglobe.org

The names behind 'Nobody'**Itamar Moses**

Role: Playwright

Credits: "The Four of Us," "Back Back Back" (Old Globe world premiere, 2009)

Reality show of the moment: "Face Off" (about special-effects makeup artists)

Gaby Alter

Role: Composer

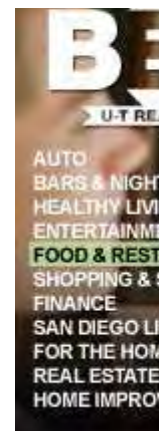
Credits: "Band Geeks!"

Reality show of the moment: "Project Runway"

Michelle Tattenbaum

Role: Director

Credits: "The Four of Us," "The Sublet

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director Michelle Tattenbaum have dreamed up is a reality dating show with the same title as the musical (fans in the play shorthand it as “NLY”). The musical’s action revolves around that show and how it figures into the frayed bonds between the two main characters.

Experiment”

Reality show of the moment: Any program where “an expert comes in and fixes clueless screw-ups.”

Jenni Barber

Role: Plays Jenny (female lead)

Credits: “Some Lovers” (Old Globe world premiere, 2011); “From Up Here” (off-Broadway)

Reality show of the moment: Cooking-related shows such as “Top Chef” and “Chopped,” where “it’s actually about the game and not (as much) about the drama.”

Adam Kantor

Role: Plays Jeff (male lead)

Credits: “Rent,” “Next to Normal,” “Avenue Q” (all Broadway)

Reality show of the moment: “Much like my character, I don’t watch reality tv unless it’s research for this show. Hmmm”

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Theater preview: A musical reality check

Globe's 'Nobody Loves You' looks at romance through lens of unscripted TV

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Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor (left to right) star in the Old Globe's world-premiere musical "Nobody Loves You." — Henry DiRocco



Written by
James

"Basically, it's about a guy (played by Adam Kantor) whose girlfriend

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(Jenni Barber) dumps him, partly because she has — at least in his mind — a sort of idealized vision of what love is supposed to be, fueled by the images of it she sees on reality TV," Moses says. "And in particular on this reality show we invented.

"And then he learns she's planning to try and be a contestant on this show. So he pursues her and tries to be a contestant also. But when he arrives, he discovers they've chosen him and not her.

"It's essentially about a guy who hates reality television, being on reality television. Which allows us to sort of have it both ways."

New frontiers

"Nobody Loves You" marks a shift in direction for the former Globe playwright-in-residence in ways quite apart from it being his first fully staged musical.

The Berkeley native is best known for plays that delve into the delicate power dynamics among friends — most famously in the off-Broadway work "The Four of Us," an ingeniously constructed piece that was informed by the playwright's own friendship with the novelist Jonathan Safran Foer ("Everything Is Illuminated").

The theme also popped up in "Back Back Back," a play about baseball's steroids scandal whose main characters were patterned after three real-life players (although the names were changed). That piece had its world premiere at the Globe in 2009; "The Four of Us" had a pre-New York Globe production in 2007.

But the concerns that drove those works are "less (present) in this show," Moses says, chatting alongside Tattenbaum and Alter during a rehearsal break. "There was a whole period in my work when I was writing about that over and over again.

"I think a shift has taken place, starting with a collection of short plays Michelle directed in New York called 'Love/Stories' — five short plays about ill-fated relationship situations.

Small screen onstage

The world of television may not be portrayed as frequently in the theater as other aspects of show biz. But some plays have taken up the tube as a topic. A sampling:

- "The Farnsworth Invention": "West Wing" writer Aaron Sorkin's fact-based play about the invention of television was developed as a Page to Stage workshop at La Jolla Playhouse in 2007; it opened on Broadway in 2008.
- "Hairspray": The hit musical's plot revolves around the racial integration of the fictional early-'60s TV dance program "The Corny Collins Show."
- "Jerry Springer: The Opera": The British stage take-off on the caustic TV talk show has provoked protests pretty much everywhere it has been produced (not a surprise for a show that includes a troupe of tap-dancing Klan members).
- "Night and her Stars": Richard Greenberg's 1995 work focuses on the television quiz-show scandals of the 1950s.
- "The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity": Kristoffer Diaz's play, a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2010, is set in the subculture of televised pro wrestling.



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“In both ‘Back Back Back’ and ‘The Four of Us,’ one of the primary things they talk about is their relationships with offstage women,” he adds. “In a way, this is taking that sort of romantic (aspect) and moving it to the center.”

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Theater preview: A musical reality check

Globe's 'Nobody Loves You' looks at romance through lens of unscripted TV

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Heath Calvert, Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor (left to right) star in the Old Globe's world-premiere musical "Nobody Loves You." — Henry DiRocco



Written by
James

Then, in a sly bit of self-effacement: "It's this new genre I invented, where





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it's romance, but comedy ensues. I think it's really going to catch on!"

If there's much creative tension among this trio, who've known each other for years, it's not readily apparent in conversation (although Moses helpfully suggests that a reporter add some lurid phrasing about "the dark glances that belied" their seeming congeniality).

The three have a little fun, too, at the often agonizing process of creating a musical. Moses and Alter — a songwriter whose credits include the musical "Band Geeks!" — began hashing out this one in the playwright's Brooklyn apartment five years ago.

When Tattenbaum, a former Manhattan Theatre Club artistic staffer and busy director, talks of how Twitter and other cultural phenomena popped up during the long development process, Moses chimes in sardonically: "And there's no faster way to respond to what's happening right now than by writing a musical!"

Actually, Alter says, there was some outside concern early on that the world might wind up moving faster than the wheels of musical theater.

"People at the beginning of the process said, 'You should really write this quickly, because reality TV (will be gone),' " he recalls. "But it's not a fad anymore. It's just what's taken over."

Tattenbaum talks of the complications in creating a reality show that seems real enough to be credible yet still fits the narrative demands of the play that's built around it. Part of that, too, is suggesting the allure of what's happening on the flickering screen without relying on actual television images.

"There is no video at all," she says of the production, which features an offstage band and choreography by Mandy Moore (TV's "So You Think You Can Dance"). "And that was really important to me from the very beginning. A lot of people at the beginning said, 'You have to talk to this or that amazing projection designer.'"

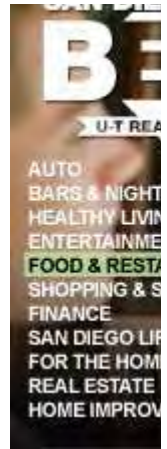
"But if we started doing a lot with video, it would seem lame compared with actual reality-TV shots. We're not trying to do that. I was always adamant that we use theatrical language to evoke television."

Still, is there any chance "NLY" might spin off from the musical and land on TV, the way that an actual Broadway musical supposedly may result from NBC-TV's Broadway-centric drama "Smash"?

Not so much, Moses says.

The tone of "NLY" is "right for our musical, but as an actual TV show, it's neither trashy enough nor serious enough," he says.

And on reality television, nobody loves you without some serious trash.



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At Globe, a hot-tub highlight

Catching up with some good, clean fun in new musical 'Nobody Loves You'

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Kelsey Kurz (left) and Lauren Molina in a non-aquatic moment from the musical "Nobody Loves You." — Henry DiRocco



Written by
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Welcome to a new feature we're calling "Scene of the Week," mostly



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because it's a little catchier than "Stuff We Didn't Manage to Shoehorn Into the Review."

In the inaugural spotlight: A gotta-see-it comic moment from the Old Globe's world-premiere musical "Nobody Loves You," [which opened last week](#).

Just to set this up a bit: "Nobody Loves You" revolves around a (blessedly) fictional TV-reality show of the same name, one that combines matchmaking and "Real World"-style housemate drama with the goofy gamesmanship of something like "Survivor."

One of composer Gaby Alter's songs, "Come On In," has the devout but conflicted character Christian (Kelsey Kurz), who describes himself as "a normal guy of faith," wrestling with his feelings for the resident party girl Megan (Lauren Molina).

As the number unfolds, Christian is pleading with Megan in a fervent, metaphorical and very musical-theater-y way to "let me in." (To her heart, presumably.)

Meantime, Megan is sitting in a hot tub, clad in not much more than imaginary bubbles and growing increasingly exasperated as she urges Christian to "come on in!" (As in, "Yeah, buddy, just get in the tub already!")

Megan is clearly not one for lyrical symbolism, and she winds up trying everything short of waving aircraft signal paddles to guide Christian into the water.

Molina, who has great comic chops, helps the scene strike an irresistible note of satire, and Kurz makes for a very game straight man. The moment also gets at one of the winning aspects of "Nobody Loves You": Not only does the musical send up the absurdity of reality television (a too-easy target at times), but it has a little fun at the expense of its own form.

(This, by the way, is the second recent world-premiere musical at the Globe to feature an episode of onstage bathing -- although the pool in "Room With a View" had actual water in it.)

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The Old Globe Announces A ROOM WITH A VIEW & More for Spring Season



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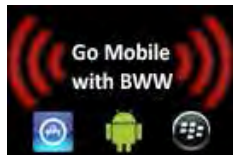
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The-Old-Globe-Announces-
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The [Old Globe Theatre](#) at the [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center, San Diego, today released its four-month calendar for the March-June season, 2012, featuring musical versions of A ROOM WITH A VIEW, NOBODY LOVES YOU and THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS.

From March 2 to April 8, 2012 [The Old Globe](#) will present **A ROOM WITH A VIEW**, based on the novel by E.M. Forster. With book by Marc Acito, music by [Jeffrey Stock](#), lyrics by [Jeffrey Stock](#) and Marc Acito, the musical will be directed by [Scott Schwartz](#).

Based on the beloved novel that inspired the Academy Award-winning film comes a new musical. Amid the golden sunlight and violet-covered hills of Tuscany, shelter [Ed English](#) girl Lucy Honeychurch meets freethinking George Emerson. For the first time, she glimpses a world of longing and passion she had never imagined. Back in her corseted Edwardian life, Lucy must decide whether to yield to convention or give up everything she has ever known.

From March 10 to April 15, the Old Glove will present **ANNA CHRISTIE** by Eugene O'Neill and directed by [Daniel Goldstein](#).

[The Old Globe's](#) "Classics Up Close" series will continue with Anna Christie, Eugene O'Neill's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece about the knotty relationship between an old sailor and the daughter he hasn't seen in almost 20 years. Their new bond becomes strained when she falls in love with a young man whose seafaring life isn't what her father wants for her. When Anna reveals to both men the shameful secret she has been harboring, they come to understand the harsh reality of her past and show her compassion, love and forgiveness.

On March 23, 2012, [The Old Globe](#) will celebrate San Diego's rich Hispanic community with **¡VIVA EL TEATRO!**

Guests will enjoy a reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by an 8:00 p.m. performance of the World Premiere musical A ROOM WITH A VIEW.

The [Old Globe Theatre](#) will present **THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS**, with music and lyrics by [John Kander](#) and [Fred Ebb](#), book by [David Thompson](#), direction and choreography by [Susan Stroman](#) from April 29 to June 10, 2012.

From the creators of Chicago, Cabaret and Kiss of the Spider Woman comes The Scottsboro Boys. This daring and wildly entertaining new musical, directed by five-time Tony Award winner [Susan Stroman](#), explores a pivotal moment in American history. Based on the notorious "Scottsboro" case of the 1930s, the story tells of the nine unjustly accused African American men whose lives would eventually spark the Civil Rights Movement.

From May 9 to June 17, 2012 the [Old Globe Theatre](#) will present **NOBODY LOVES YOU** with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter, book and lyrics by [Itamar Moses](#) and directed by Michelle Tattenbaum.

When Jeff, a young grad student, joins a reality television show to try and win back his ex, he unexpectedly meets a girl who might be the love of his life. But when seduced by the adulation of his fans, Jeff must decide what is more important – fame or love? Nobody Loves You is an irreverent new pop musical comedy about the search for real relationships in a pop culture that is anything but. A World Premiere.

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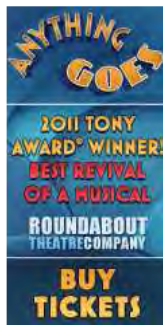
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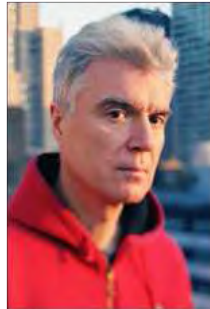


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David Byrne

Giant and David Byrne's Imelda Marcos Musical Here Lies Love Among Titles Announced for Public Theater in 2012-13

Here Lies Love, a new pop musical about Filipina First Lady Imelda Marcos, by Talking Heads' David Byrne and dance DJ Fatboy Slim, will premiere in the Public Theater's 2012-13 season. The new Michael John LaChiusa-Sybille Pearson musical *Giant* was also confirmed, as were Richard Nelson, Richard Foreman, Dominique Morisseau, Alex Timbers, Annie B. Parson, Colman Domingo, J. Smith Cameron and others.

The Lion King Takes Phantom's Throne as Highest-Grossing Broadway Musical

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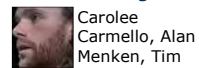


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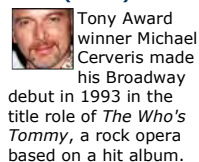
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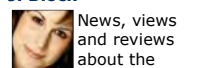


Slater talk about how musicals use faith and religion, preachers and followers, God and the Bible to make us understand ourselves.

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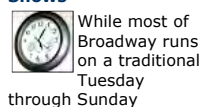


DIVA TALK: Catching Up With Anything Goes' New Reno Sweeney, Stephanie J. Block



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Nobody Loves You, a Musical About Reality TV, to Feature Adam Kantor, Jenni Barber, Lauren Molina in CA

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Nobody Loves You, a Musical About Reality TV, to Feature Adam Kantor, Jenni Barber, Lauren Molina in CA

By [Kenneth Jones](#)

09 Apr 2012



Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor
Photo by Henry DiRocco

Opening night is May 17.

The staging has music direction by [Vadim Feichtner](#) and choreography by Mandy Moore.

A former Globe Playwright-in-Residence, Moses is known for his plays *The Four of Us* and *Back Back Back*, which also had their world premieres at The Old Globe. Alter is a co-writer of the new musical *Band Geeks!*

The [Old Globe](#)'s world-premiere production of the pop-flavored *Nobody Loves You* — a musical comedy set in the world of reality television, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses — will feature [Jenni Barber](#), [Alex Brightman](#), [Heath Calvert](#), Kate Morgan Chadwick, [Adam Kantor](#), [Kelsey Kurz](#), [Nicole Lewis](#) and [Lauren Molina](#).

The Old Globe announced casting and the creative team on April 9. Michelle Tattenbaum directs the production, to run May 9-June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center in San Diego, CA.

Nobody Loves You "takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life," according to The Old Globe. "When Jeff (Kantor, of Broadway's [Rent](#) and [Next to Normal](#)), a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow

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the game wide open . . . until he meets Jenny (Barber, of Old Globe's *Some Lovers*). In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?"

The creative team includes Michael Schweikardt (scenic design), Emily Pepper (costume design), Tyler Micoleau (lighting design), Paul Peterson (sound design), Stephanie Klapper, CSA (casting) and Diana Moser (stage manager).

Alter wrote music and lyrics for *Band Geeks!* (with Tommy Newman, Mark Allen and **Gordon Greenberg**) which premiered at Goodspeed Musicals and will be produced this summer at The Human Race Theatre Company. His other shows include 29, a pop-rock song cycle (New York University), *Young Zombies in Love* (New York International Fringe Festival), *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy* with Negin Farsad (Edinburgh Festival Fringe) and *Vapor Tales* with Dominic Mah. A 2009 **Jonathan Larson** Grant recipient, Alter has won awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle and the New York International Fringe Festival for his scores.

Moses' plays include *Outrage*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Celebrity Row*, *The Four of Us*, *Yellowjackets*, *Back Back Back* and *Completeness*, the musical *Fortress of Solitude* (with **Michael Friedman** and Daniel Aukin) and the evening of short plays *Love/Stories (or But You Will Get Used To It)*.

Brightman, who is making his Globe debut, appeared as Boq in ***Wicked*** on Broadway; Calvert (Globe debut) was in *Love's Labours Lost* (The Public Theater), *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion* and *Suprema* (The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center); Chadwick appeared as Frenchy in the Broadway national tour of ***Grease*** and was Ali in *Mamma Mia!* in Las Vegas; Kurz was featured at the Globe last year in *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show* and was in The Public Theater's ***The Merchant of Venice*** on and Off-Broadway; Lewis (Globe debut) appeared in Broadway's ***Hair***, *Rent* and ***Lennon***; Molina was Johanna in **John Doyle's** Broadway revival of ***Sweeney Todd*** and was Cunegonde in the regional *Candide*, directed by **Mary Zimmerman**, for which she won the Helen Hayes Award.

Nobody Loves You is supported in part through a gift from Production Sponsors Paula and Brian Powers. *Nobody Loves You* is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award and is supported in part by the National Fund for New Musicals, a program of National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

For more information about *Nobody Loves You*, visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.



PHOTO ARCHIVE: Eight Years of Wicked on Broadway



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Photo Flash: The Old Globe Announces NOBODY LOVES YOU Cast - Adam Kantor, Jenni Barber and More!

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 Sunday, April 8, 2012; 04:04 PM - by [BWW News Desk](#)

[The Old Globe](#) today announced the cast and creative team for the World Premiere of Nobody Loves You, a musical comedy with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by [Itamar Moses](#) set in the world of reality television.

The cast of Nobody Loves You features [Jenni Barber](#) (Jenny), [Alex Brightman](#) (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), [Heath Calvert](#) (Byron), [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#) (Samantha, Bonnie), [Adam Kantor](#) (Jeff), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Christian, Steve), [Nicole Lewis](#) (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and [Lauren Molina](#) (Megan). View photos of the cast below!

A former Globe Playwright-in-Residence, Moses' The Four of Us (2007) and Back Back Back (2008) also had their World Premieres at [The Old Globe](#). Directed by Michelle Tattenbaum with music direction by [Vadim Feichtner](#) and choreography by Mandy Moore, Nobody Loves You will run May 9 - June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Preview performances run May 9 - May 16. Opening night is Thursday, May 17 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Filled with tuneful pop songs, Nobody Loves You takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open...until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?

The creative team includes [Michael Schweikardt](#) (Scenic Design), [Emily Pepper](#) (Costume Design), [Tyler Micoileau](#) (Lighting Design), [Paul Peterson](#) (Sound Design), [Stephanie Klapper](#), CSA (Casting) and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).

Nobody Loves You is supported in part through a gift from Production Sponsors Paula and Brian Powers.

Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco

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The cast and creative team of Nobody Loves You: (back row, from left) Playwright [Itamar Moses](#), actors [Heath Calvert](#), [Nicole Lewis](#), music director [Vadim Feichtner](#), actors [Jenni Barber](#) and [Adam Kantor](#); (front row seated, from left) director Michelle Tattenbaum, actors [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#), [Kelsey Kurz](#), [Lauren Molina](#), [Alex Brightman](#), choreographer [MAndy Moore](#) and composer [Gaby Alter](#)



[MAndy Moore](#), [Gaby Alter](#), [Michelle Tattenbaum](#), [Itamar Moses](#) and [Vadim Feichtner](#)

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(Front row, from left) [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#), [Kelsey Kurz](#), [Lauren Molina](#) and [Alex Brightman](#); (back row, from left) [Heath Calvert](#), [Nicole Lewis](#), [Jenni Barber](#) and [Adam Kantor](#)



(Front row, from left) [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#), [Kelsey Kurz](#), [Lauren Molina](#), [Adam Kantor](#) and [Alex Brightman](#); (back row, from left) [Heath Calvert](#), [Nicole Lewis](#) and [Jenni Barber](#)



(Standing, from left) [Kelsey Kurz](#), [Nicole Lewis](#), [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#), [Heath Calvert](#), [Jenni Barber](#) and [Adam Kantor](#); (on floor, from left) [Alex Brightman](#) and [Lauren Molina](#)



[Heath Calvert](#), [Jenni Barber](#) and [Adam Kantor](#)



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Jenni Barber, Adam Kantor, Lauren Molina Set for *Nobody Loves You* at the Old Globe

By [Sarah Moore](#) • Apr 9, 2012 • [San Diego](#) [0 Comments](#)



Adam Kantor

The [Old Globe](#) has announced the cast and creative team for the world premiere of *Nobody Loves You*, a musical comedy with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses. *Nobody Loves You* will run May 9 - June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

The show takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open . . . until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?

The cast of *Nobody Loves You* features Jenni Barber (Jenny), Alex Brightman (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), Heath Calvert (Byron), Kate Morgan Chadwick (Samantha, Bonnie), Adam Kantor (Jeff), Kelsey Kurz (Christian, Steve), Nicole Lewis (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and Lauren Molina (Megan).

Nobody Loves You is directed by Michelle Tattenbaum with music direction by Vadim Feichtner and choreography by Mandy Moore. Designers include Michael Schweikardt (scenic design), Emily Pepper (costume design), Tyler Micoleau (lighting design), Paul Peterson (sound design).

[For more information and tickets to *Nobody Loves You* click here.](#)

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The Old Globe Presents THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS, Opening Tonight, 4/29

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Sunday, April 29, 2012; 12:04 AM - by [BWW News Desk](#)



The [Old Globe Theatre](#) at the [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center, San Diego, will feature THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS, opening tonight, NOBODY LOVES YOU, opening May 9, and more through June 2012.

The [Old Globe Theatre](#) will present **THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS**, with music and lyrics by [John Kander](#) and [Fred Ebb](#), book by [David Thompson](#), direction and choreography by [Susan Stroman](#) from April 29 to June 10, 2012.

From the creators of Chicago, Cabaret and Kiss of the Spider Woman comes The Scottsboro Boys. This daring and wildly entertaining new musical, directed by five-time Tony Award winner [Susan Stroman](#),

explores a pivotal moment in American history. Based on the notorious "Scottsboro" case of the 1930s, the story tells of the nine unjustly accused African American men whose lives would eventually spark the Civil Rights Movement.

From May 9 to June 17, 2012 the [Old Globe Theatre](#) will present **NOBODY LOVES YOU** with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter, book and lyrics by [Itamar Moses](#) and directed by [Michelle Tattenbaum](#).

When Jeff, a young grad student, joins a reality television show to try and win back his ex, he unexpectedly meets a girl who might be the love of his life. But when seduced by the adulation of his fans, Jeff must decide what is more important – fame or love? Nobody Loves You is an irreverent new pop musical comedy about the search for real relationships in a pop culture that is anything but. A World Premiere.

The Lowel Davies Festival Theatre's Shakespeare Festival 2012 will take place from June 3 to September 25 this year. The productions featured are **RICHARD III**, directed by [Lindsay Posner](#), **AS YOU LIKE IT**, directed by [Adrian Noble](#), and **INHERIT THE WIND** by [Jerome Lawrence](#) and [Robert E. Lee](#), directed by [Adrian Noble](#).




In Inherit the Wind, Two powerhouse lawyers face off in a small-town with the eyes of an entire nation upon them when a professor is arrested for teaching Charles Darwin's theories of evolution in his classroom. When the issue goes to trial, the two attorneys must passionately confront questions of faith and science in a heated courtroom. This fictional re-creation of the infamous Scopes Monkey Trial tackles issues that are every bit as relevant today as they were in 1925.

Find more information and get tickets for all these events on [The Old Globe](#) Website: www.TheOldGlobe.org

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***Nobody Loves You*, a Musical About Reality TV, Begins at Old Globe May 9**

By [Kenneth Jones](#)

09 May 2012



Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor
Photo by Henry DiRocco

May 17.

The **Old Globe**'s world-premiere production of the pop-flavored *Nobody Loves You* — a musical comedy set in the world of reality television, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses — goes live and in color starting May 9. Its cast includes **Jenni Barber**, **Alex Brightman**, **Heath Calvert**, Kate Morgan Chadwick, **Adam Kantor**, **Kelsey Kurz**, **Nicole Lewis** and **Lauren Molina**.

Michelle Tattenbaum directs the production, to run to June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center in San Diego, CA. Opening night is

The staging has music direction by **Vadim Feichtner** and choreography by Mandy Moore.

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For more information about *Nobody Loves You*, visit www.TheOldGlobe.org.



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Photo Flash: First Look at The Old Globe's NOBODY LOVES YOU World Premiere!

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Monday, May 14, 2012; 06:05 PM - by [BWW News Desk](#)

[The Old Globe](#)'s upcoming World Premiere of Nobody Loves You, a musical comedy with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by [Itamar Moses](#) set in the world of reality television is currently in previews and opens May 17.

The cast of Nobody Loves You features [Jenni Barber](#) (Jenny), [Alex Brightman](#) (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), [Heath Calvert](#) (Byron), [Kate Morgan](#) Chadwick (Samantha, Bonnie), [Adam Kantor](#) (Jeff), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Christian, Steve), [Nicole Lewis](#) (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and [Lauren Molina](#) (Megan).

Get a first look at the full cast on stage in the photos below!

A former Globe Playwright-in-Residence, Moses' The Four of Us (2007) and Back Back Back (2008) also had their World Premieres at [The Old Globe](#). Directed by [Michelle Tattenbaum](#) with music direction by [Vadim Feichtner](#) and choreography by [MAndy Moore](#), Nobody Loves You runs May 9 - June 17 in the Sheryl and [Harvey White](#) Theatre, part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center. Preview performances run now through May 16. Opening night is Thursday, May 17 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.TheOldGlobe.org](#), by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco

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[Heath Calvert](#) as Byron (bottom) with [Lauren Molina](#), [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#), [Jenni Barber](#) and [Kelsey Kurz](#)



[Heath Calvert](#) as Byron, [Adam Kantor](#) as Jeff and [Nicole Lewis](#) as Nina



[Adam Kantor](#) as Jeff (center) and the cast of Nobody Loves You



[Jenni Barber](#) as Jenny and [Adam Kantor](#) as Jeff



[Heath Calvert](#) as Byron (foreground) and the cast of Nobody Loves You



[Alex Brightman](#) as Evan



[Lauren Molina](#) as Megan and [Adam Kantor](#) as Jeff



[Jenni Barber](#) as Jenny



[Kelsey Kurz](#) as Christian and [Lauren Molina](#) as Megan



The cast of Nobody Loves You



[Lauren Molina](#) as Megan and [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#) as Samantha



[Heath Calvert](#) as Byron (center) with (from left) [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#), [Jenni Barber](#) and [Lauren Molina](#)

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Nobody Loves You Musical Opens in CA World Premiere; Adam Kantor, Heath Calvert, Lauren Molina Star

By [Kenneth Jones](#)

17 May 2012



Jenni Barber and Adam Kantor
Photo by Henry DiRocco

The **Old Globe**'s world-premiere production of the pop-flavored *Nobody Loves You* — a musical comedy set in the world of reality television, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses — opens live and in color May 17 following previews from May 9. Its cast includes **Jenni Barber**, **Alex Brightman**, **Heath Calvert**, Kate Morgan Chadwick, **Adam Kantor**, **Kelsey Kurz**, **Nicole Lewis** and **Lauren Molina**.

Michelle Tattenbaum directs the production, to run to June 17 in the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, part of the Globe's Conrad Prebys Theatre Center in San Diego, CA.

The staging has music direction by **Vadim Feichtner** and choreography by Mandy

Moore.

A former Globe Playwright-in-Residence, Moses is known for his plays *The Four of Us* and *Back Back Back*, which also had their world premieres at The Old Globe. Alter is a co-writer of the new musical *Band Geeks!*, getting its next production by Ohio's Human Race Theatre Company in the coming weeks.

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Nobody Loves You "takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life," according to The Old Globe. "When Jeff

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(Kantor, of Broadway's **Rent** and **Next to Normal**), a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open . . . until he meets Jenny (Barber, of Old Globe's *Some Lovers*). In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?"

The creative team includes Michael Schweikardt (scenic design), Emily Pepper (costume design), Tyler Micoeau (lighting design), Paul Peterson (sound design), Stephanie Klapper, CSA (casting) and Peter Van Dyke (stage manager).

Alter wrote music and lyrics for *Band Geeks!* (with Tommy Newman, Mark Allen and **Gordon Greenberg**), which premiered at Goodspeed Musicals. His other shows include 29, a pop-rock song cycle (New York University), *Young Zombies in Love* (New York International Fringe Festival), *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Romantic Comedy* with Negin Farsad (Edinburgh Festival Fringe) and *Vapor Tales* with Dominic Mah. A 2009 **Jonathan Larson** Grant recipient, Alter has won awards from the San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle and the New York International Fringe Festival for his scores.



Kelsey Kurz and Lauren Molina
photo by Henry DiRocco

Moses' plays include *Outrage*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Celebrity Row*, *The Four of Us*, *Yellowjackets*, *Back Back Back* and *Completeness*, the musical *Fortress of Solitude* (with **Michael Friedman** and Daniel Aukin) and the evening of short plays *Love/Stories (or But You Will Get Used To It)*.

Brightman, who is making his Globe debut, appeared as Boq in **Wicked** on Broadway; Calvert (Globe debut) was in *Love's Labours Lost* (The Public Theater), *Romy and Michele's High School Reunion* and *Suprema* (The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center); Chadwick appeared as Frenchy in the Broadway national tour of *Grease* and was Ali in *Mamma Mia!* in Las Vegas; Kurz was featured at the Globe last year in *Richard O'Brien's The Rocky Horror Show* and was in The Public Theater's **The Merchant of Venice** on and Off-Broadway; Lewis (Globe debut) appeared in Broadway's **Hair**, **Rent** and **Lennon**; Molina was Johanna in **John Doyle's** Broadway revival of **Sweeney Todd** and was Cunegonde in the regional *Candide*, directed by **Mary Zimmerman**, for which she won the Helen Hayes Award.

Nobody Loves You is supported in part through a gift from Production Sponsors Paula and Brian Powers. *Nobody Loves You* is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award and is supported in part by the National Fund for New Musicals, a program of National Alliance for



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For more information about *Nobody Loves You*, visit TheOldGlobe.org.



Heath Calvert (bottom) with Lauren Molina, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Jenni Barber and Kelsey Kurz
photo by Henry DiRocco



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Photo Flash: The Old Globe's **NOBODY LOVES YOU** World Premiere Opens Tonight!

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Thursday, May 17, 2012; 12:05 AM - by [BWW News Desk](#)

[The Old Globe](#)'s upcoming World Premiere of Nobody Loves You, a musical comedy with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by [Itamar Moses](#) set in the world of reality television opens tonight, May 17.

The cast of Nobody Loves You features [Jenni Barber](#) (Jenny), [Alex Brightman](#) (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), [Heath Calvert](#) (Byron), [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#) (Samantha, Bonnie), [Adam Kantor](#) (Jeff), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Christian, Steve), [Nicole Lewis](#) (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and [Lauren Molina](#) (Megan).

Get a first look at the full cast on stage in the photos below!

A former Globe Playwright-in-Residence, Moses' *The Four of Us* (2007) and *Back Back Back* (2008) also had their World Premieres at [The Old Globe](#). Directed by [Michelle Tattenbaum](#) with music direction by [Vadim Feichtner](#) and choreography by [Mandy Moore](#), Nobody Loves You runs May 9 - June 17 in the Sheryl and [Harvey White](#) Theatre, part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center. Opening night is tonight, May 17 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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Photo Credit: Henry DiRocco

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[Heath Calvert](#) as Byron (bottom) with [Lauren Molina](#), [Kate Morgan Chadwick](#), [Jenni Barber](#) and [Kelsey Kurz](#)



[Heath Calvert](#) as Byron, [Adam Kantor](#) as Jeff and [Nicole Lewis](#) as Nina

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[Adam Kantor](#) as Jeff (center) and the cast of Nobody Loves You



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[Heath Calvert](#) as Byron (foreground) and the cast of Nobody Loves You



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Adam Kantor, Alex Brightman, Lauren Molina and More in *Nobody Loves You* at the Old Globe

The Old Globe's world-premiere production of *Nobody Loves You* starring Jenni Barber, Alex Brightman, Heath Calvert, Kate Morgan Chadwick, Adam Kantor, Kelsey Kurz, Nicole Lewis and Lauren Molina opens May 17 at the San Diego Theatre. Read the [Playbill.com story](#).

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Heath Calvert and the cast of *Nobody Loves You*
Photo by Henry DiRocco

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Tuesday, May 29, 2012; 10:05 AM - by [Audra Stafford](#)

[The Old Globe](#) is currently featuring the World Premiere of Nobody Loves You, a musical comedy with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by [Itamar Moses](#) set in the world of reality television. The cast of Nobody Loves You features [Jenni Barber](#) (Jenny), [Alex Brightman](#) (Chazz, Dominic, Evan), [Heath Calvert](#) (Byron), [Kate Morgan](#) Chadwick (Samantha, Bonnie), [Adam Kantor](#) (Jeff), [Kelsey Kurz](#) (Christian, Steve), [Nicole Lewis](#) (Tanya, Nina, Zenobia) and [Lauren Molina](#) (Megan).

In the video below, BroadwayWorld's own Audra Stafford goes behind the scenes of the new production with the cast and creative team. Check it out below!

A former Globe Playwright-in-Residence, Moses' *The Four of Us* (2007) and *Back Back Back* (2008) also had their World Premieres at [The Old Globe](#). Directed by [Michelle Tattenbaum](#) with music direction by [Vadim Feichtner](#) and choreography by [Mandy Moore](#), Nobody Loves You runs May 9 - June 17 in the Sheryl and [Harvey White](#) Theatre, part of the Globe's [Conrad Prebys](#) Theatre Center. Preview performances run now through May 16. Opening night is Thursday, May 17 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.TheOldGlobe.org, by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

Filled with tuneful pop songs, Nobody Loves You takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open...until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?

The creative team includes [Michael Schweikardt](#) (Scenic Design), [Emily Pepper](#) (Costume Design), [Tyler Micoleau](#) (Lighting Design), [Paul Peterson](#) (Sound Design), [Stephanie Klapper](#), CSA (Casting) and Diana Moser (Stage Manager).



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On The Entertainment Beat

Audra Stafford's Guide To Arts & Entertainment

“Nobody Loves You” Creators Talk About New Musical



The world-premiere musical *Nobody Loves You* is playing through June 17th at the Old Globe in San Diego.

Filled with tuneful pop songs, *Nobody Loves You* takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open...until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?

The cast of *Nobody Loves You* features Jenni Barber (*Jenny*), Alex Brightman (*Chazz, Dominic, Evan*), Heath Calvert (*Byron*), Kate Morgan Chadwick (*Samantha, Bonnie*), Adam Kantor (*Jeff*), Kelsey Kurz (*Christian, Steve*), Nicole Lewis (*Tanya, Nina, Zenobia*) and Lauren Molina (*Megan*).

I got a chance to speak with the show's creators Gaby Alter (*Music & Lyrics*) and Itamar Moses (*Book and Lyrics*) and director Michelle Tattenbaum.

Click on the video below for my interviews and a sneak peek at the show!



Tickets can be purchased [online](#), by phone at (619) 23-GLOBE or by visiting the Box Office at 1363 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park.

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Stage update: New plays get a boost

Local theaters win national grants, and other drama news

By James Hebert
5:17 p.m., July 13, 2011

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A midweek roundup of items from across the theater beat:

- Three [San Diego](#) theaters are among 19 nationwide that were just named as winners of the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. The Edgerton grants, administered by the [Theatre Communications Group](#), range between \$5,000 and \$75,000 and are meant mainly to provide extra rehearsal time for promising new works.



Paul Michael and Marion Ross chat during a rehearsal for the Old Globe's "The Last Romance" in 2010. Michael died last week at age 84. — David Brooks

The local winners (all for plays coming up in the next year): [La Jolla Playhouse](#) for "Milk Like Sugar," coming in August; the [Old Globe Theatre](#) for "Nobody Loves You," opening next May; and [San Diego Repertory Theatre](#) for "Tortilla Curtain" premiering next March.

The specific amounts awarded to each theater were not provided.

- The Globe has confirmed that actor-producer [Paul Michael](#), longtime companion of the San Diego-born performer (and Globe associate artist) [Marion Ross](#), has died. Michael was a Broadway veteran who turned to producing later in life. He and Ross also appeared onstage together at the Globe (and elsewhere), most recently in 2010, when the two portrayed a pair of late-blooming lovers in "The Last Romance." The play was written for the pair by [Joe DiPietro](#), a Tony-winner last year for the La Jolla Playhouse-launched "Memphis."

Michael, who also had extensive TV credits, died Friday in Woodland Hills. He was 84.

(Here's a [U-T profile](#) of Michael and Ross from last year.)

- The Globe announced that casting director Samantha Barrie is leaving the theater at the end of July. She'll join the National Artists Management Company, a firm founded by the prominent Broadway producers Fran and Barry Weissler, as director of artistic development.

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Win a Pair of Tickets to Nobody Loves You at The Old Globe Theatre



Enter for a chance to win a pair of tickets to see **Nobody Loves You** at **The Old Globe Theatre**!

Tickets are good for shows from May 9-May 27 excluding Saturday evenings

A funny and irreverent World Premiere musical romantic comedy! Filled with tuneful pop songs, **NOBODY LOVES YOU** takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open ... until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?

NOBODY LOVES YOU is a recipient of an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award.

Development of **NOBODY LOVES YOU** was supported in part by the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's National Fund for New Musicals.

For more information on *Nobody Loves You* at *The Old Globe Theatre*, [click here](#).

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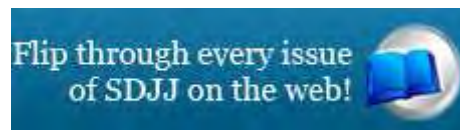
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What's Going On: A Merry Month for the Arts

by Eileen Sondak | [May 2012](#), [Popular Stories from SDJJ](#) | [Post your comment »](#)





By Eileen Sondak

May is a merry month for theater, dance and music lovers, with a wealth of entertaining events coming our way. A brand new musical will take over the Globe's White Theatre, David Ellenstein will direct two Pinter plays for the North Coast Repertory Theatre, "Romeo and Juliet" and "Cinderella" will dance into town, the San Diego Symphony will complete its season, the New York Philharmonic will perform at Symphony Hall, and the smash hit Broadway show, "The Addams Family," will arrive at the Civic Theatre. That's just for starters!

Broadway-San Diego will present the multi-Tony Award-winning musical, “Chicago,” starring Christie Brinkley in a killer role, May 8-13 at the Civic Theatre. The organization finally snared “The Addams Family” for a brief run at the Civic May 29-June 3. The darkly spooktacular musical is definitely designed for family fun, so bring kids of all ages to enjoy the ghouls as they struggle with their daughter’s choice of a “normal” boyfriend.

The La Jolla Playhouse continues to show off “Hands on a Hardbody,” a new musical by Pulitzer Prize-winner Doug Wright. This Playhouse-commissioned work is about a publicity stunt that turns into a battle of wills. “Hands on a Hardbody” will run through June 10 at the Mandell Weiss Theatre.

The Old Globe is ready to unveil “Nobody Loves You,” a world premiere musical comedy directed by Michelle Tattenbaum. The funny and irreverent show heads for the White Theatre May 9, where it will remain happily ensconced through June 17. The story revolves around the search for real love on the set of a reality TV show.

Meanwhile, the Globe’s Main Stage is still dishing out “The Scottsboro Boys,” a daring musical sensation with music and lyrics by Kander and Ebb, and direction and choreography by Susan Stroman. This shocker is based on the notorious case of nine unjustly accused African American men in the 1930s. Check it out through June 10.

Cygnnet Theatre will open “Dirty Blonde” May 17 at its Old Town Theatre. The play is about an aspiring actress who admires Mae West. She shares that devotion with a film librarian, and together they find self-confidence and romance. The show features musical numbers and flashbacks into the life of the “Red Hot Mama.” “Dirty Blonde” will run through June 17.

The San Diego Symphony starts the month May 1 with the Brahms Horn Trio (starring Jon Kimura Parker and Cho-Liang Lin). This performance is slated for the Neurosciences Institute. When the orchestra returns to Symphony Hall May 4-6, Jahja Ling will conduct a concert dubbed “Parker Plays Rhapsody in Blue” with Parker on the keyboard. Three other rhapsodies are included on the program. Conductor Long Yu will lead the orchestra May 11-13 in a program that features Tchaikovsky’s Pathetique. Jeff Thayer will be showcased on the violin, with Che-Yen Chen on viola.

Peter Cetera is set to sing his greatest hits during the Winter Pops series May 18-19, with Matthew Garbutt on the podium. The final concert of the season will be performed May 25-27, when pianist Horacio Gutierrez plays Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2. Maestro Ling conducts the program, which also features works by Brubeck and Sibelius.

The San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival continues to delight classical music fans this month with “Windscape” (a program of works by Bach, Mozart and others) May 4, followed May 5 by a program featuring Ravel, Bernstein and others. May 11 will bring pianists Alessio Bax and Lucille Chung together for works by Brahms, and on May 12, the pair will perform pieces by Stravinsky and Rachmaninoff. All these concerts are headed to the Neurosciences Institute.

The La Jolla Music Society has an eclectic mix this month, beginning with Emanuel Ax May 4, as part of its Frieman Family Piano Series at Sherwood Auditorium. Momix will dance two performances at the North Park Theatre May 5, followed May 12 by cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han at Sherwood. The New York Philharmonic will perform at Copley Symphony Hall May 15, and Poncho Sanchez will spice things up at the North Park with his Latin Jazz Band.

North Coast Repertory Theatre will present “Hound of the Baskervilles” May 3-6. Comedian Phil Johnson will play all 13 characters. NCR will celebrate the genius of Harold Pinter with “Two by Pinter: The Lover and The Dumb Waiter.” The pair of plays, directed by David Ellenstein, will open May 23 and remain at the

WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

U-T | AN EDITION OF U-T SAN DIEGO

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MAY 17-23, 2012

S·D SCENE

THANK GLOBE IT'S FRIDAY



Kate Morgan Chadwick and Jenni Barber at the party before "The Scottsboro Boys" or "Nobody Loves You."



ONLINE

To view a gallery of society photos, go to utsandiego.com/society.

Or you can scan this quick-response code to see the photos on your smartphone.



Ana Rivero and Ryan Burtanog at the Old Globe.
DANNY DILWORTH • DISCOVERSD PHOTOS



Ron Sanchez and Arin Perrot

Wednesday, May 16th 2012



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Name games and a new musical

Globe's 'Nobody' taps into odd realities; plus other theater news

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A scene from the Old Globe Theatre's world-premiere musical "Nobody Loves You." — Henry DiRocco



Written by
**James
Hebert**

Maybe the Old Globe musical "Nobody Loves You" is onto something with this whole reality-TV thing.



6:04 p.m., May 15, 2012

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Name games and a new musical



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Broadway update: Locals' Tony hopes

Broadway locks up La Jolla's 'Bonnie & Clyde'

The show, now in previews, is built around a (fictional) unscripted TV show. Meanwhile, in a related development (or at the very least "related" in the sense of "also appearing in this item"), the latest Social Security [index of popular baby names](#) demonstrates the apparently profound effect of reality shows on what parents decide to call their kids.

Not only has "Mason" (the name that the inescapable Kim Kardashian gave her young son) rocketed up the charts, but Briella -- which seems to have hardly existed as a name until the show "Jerseylicious" featured a stylist by that name -- now has cracked the list at No. 497.

There's no Briella in "Nobody Loves You." (Not even a single Snooki.) But the world-premiere musical's creative team does have its own link to reality-land. The show's choreographer is Mandy Moore, who does the same duties for the program "So You Think You Can Dance." So if you check out "NLY," you can look for how she handles the musical's dance sequences on the Globe's very compact, arena-style Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre stage.

(And you can look for my review of the musical, which opens Thursday, online here and in the Saturday print edition of the U-T.)

Moving on (in a conspicuously unchoreographed way) to other news related to [San Diego theater](#):

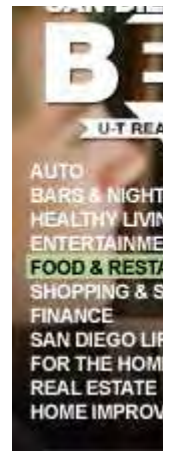
- There's a good interview [over at Broadway.com](#) with Jeff Calhoun, the director who is [Tony Award-nominated](#) this year for the musical "Newsies." You might recall that Calhoun also directed another Tony-nominated musical, "Bonnie & Clyde," which began life at La Jolla Playhouse. (In addition, he was at the Globe in late 2010 with a musical adaptation of Jane Austen's "Emma.")

It turns out that "Newsies," too, was once headed to the Playhouse, according to Calhoun. But those plans fell through, and the show wound up premiering instead at the Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey.

While "Bonnie & Clyde" (which Calhoun has said he offered initially to the Globe) wound up closing quickly on Broadway, "Newsies" has a good run going in New York and is nominated as best musical. Among the shows it's competing against: "Leap of Faith," directed by the Playhouse's artistic leader, Christopher Ashley, as an outside project.

(And just to really drill down here, trivia-wise: Another of the best-musical nominees, "Nice Work If You Can Get It," is a show whose first production Ashley himself directed. That was 10 years ago, when the piece - whose book is by Joe DiPietro of the Playhouse-launched hit "Memphis" - was titled "They All Laughed!")

- Moving closer to home: A quick reminder that Ion Theatre has [extended its run](#) of Suzan-Lori Parks' "Topdog/Underdog" through this Sunday (May 20). It's a gripping production, with two very tuned-in actors at its



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LGBT weekly

May 17, 2012 ♦ Issue 78

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PHOTO: HENRY DIROCCO

The cast of *Nobody Loves You*

thursday, may 17

Nobody Loves You

A funny and irreverent world premiere musical romantic comedy! Filled with tuneful pop songs, *Nobody Loves You* takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open ... until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?

Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre,
1362 Old Globe Way in Balboa Park,
8 p.m., tickets from \$29, 619-234-5623,
theoldglobe.org.

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VOLUME 14 ISSUE 6

THINGS TO DO AROUND SAN DIEGO COUNTY

"Nobody Loves You"

Friday, June 15

A funny and irreverent world premiere musical romantic comedy that takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open. 8 p.m. Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego, (619) 23-GLOBE (234-5623).

North Park Theatre

San Diego Musical Theatre (SDMT) Presents "Rent" June 22 through July 8 at Birch North Park Theatre. With musical direction by Don LeMaster, choreography by Courtney Corey and directed by Ron Kellum, Gwen Stewart will reprise the role she created in the original Broadway company of "Rent," including introducing the solo vocals for the musical's central theme song, "Seasons of Love." The cast will also feature Dylan Hunter as Mark and Casey O'Farrell as Roger, along with Shaun Tuazon (Angel), Loren Smith (Collins), Desmond Newson (Benny), Katy Harvey (Maureen), Nicole Tillman (Joanne), Ann-Michele Schneider (Mimi), Marisha Castle (Alexi), J.D. Driskill (Gordon), Aaron Meadows (Mr. J), Cordell Mosteller (Paul), Leslie Tammone (Mrs. Cohen) and Tom Vendafreddo (Steve).

Director Ron Kellum has a 22-year career in the entertainment industry, as actor, choreographer and director, has made him the consummate showbiz professional. He's appeared on Broadway in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Chicago" and toured nationally in "Fosse," "Chicago," "Aida," "Dreamgirls," "Beauty and The Beast" and "Smokey Joe's Café."

Kellum has worked in film as a choreographer, most recently on the feature film "Iron Man 2."

Choreographer Courtney Corey is a notable, professional actor, singer, and dancer. She is best known for her role as Elphaba in the Chicago and Los Angeles productions of "Wicked".

Don LeMaster is an award-winning musical director, and has been the resident musical director/conductor for San Diego Musical Theatre since it's inception in 2006.

For tickets and information, call the Administrative Office at 858-560-5740 or visit SDMT online at www.sdmtd.org.

Old Globe

"Nobody Loves You" runs through June 17 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in the Conrad Prebys Theatre Center. Directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, this funny and irreverent World Premiere musical romantic comedy, is filled with tuneful pop songs. "Nobody Loves You" takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open... until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection?



Jenni Barber as Jenny and Adam Kantor as Jeff in the World Premiere musical Nobody Loves You, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.

The Old Globe is located in San Diego's Balboa Park at 1363 Old Globe Way.

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Continued from Cover

Passionate About His Business

I was reminded that Cramer, Rattner and Strauss were forging new territory 23 years ago. "As a pioneer in the craft beer industry in Southern California, we experienced the challenges and hurdles that came with being the first," offered Kramer during a recent interview at his offices in Pacific Beach.

Today, Cramer says his brewing company is expanding to meet the demands of a "thirsty" market. "For several years we've been attempting to expand outside of Southern California, however, our consumers and their desire for more beer has kept that from happening," offered Cramer.

I shared with Cramer that the "thirst" might be because of the selection, variety and quality of the beer they brew. He definitely agrees that from day one they have made it their commitment to being the best in the industry. And proving this focus, Karl Strauss Brewing Company has established quality standards that have earned them local, national and international recognition.

Recently, Karl Strauss competed in the ninth bi-annual World Beer Cup®. The competition is highly regarded and considered the largest international gathering of beers with more than 3,921 entries from 799 breweries across 54 countries and 45 U.S. states. Karl Strauss took home a gold medal for its Red Trolley Ale and a silver medal for its Two Tortugas Belgian Quad.

Red Trolley Ale is one of only seven beers in the world out of more than 7,250 beers entered into competition in the last two World Beer Cups to have won a gold medal in each. This helps explain why Red Trolley sales have increased by 36 percent since its first big win in 2010.

I also asked about increasing the "square footage" of his property. Jokingly, Cramer asked if I was referring to his physique. No, I said. I am referring to buildings, restaurants and distribution centers.

To keep up with double-digit sales growth in Southern California and new territory demand, Karl Strauss is adding brewing capacity as well as adding new property to its growth. Their brewery on Santa Fe Drive in Pacific Beach will be under construction starting the summer of 2012. The major renovation will allow Karl Strauss to offer public tours, tastings, hosted events and an outdoor beer garden.

The company's plan for growth includes a new brewery restaurant in San Diego's 4S Ranch neighborhood, which moves Karl Strauss to 364 brewery restaurants already operating in California. With the expanded distribution, brewery project, and new brewery restaurant in place, Karl Strauss is poised to share its award-winning beers with craft beer fans across the Golden State.

Cramer, who is even more passionate about the business today as he was 23 years ago, says it is important to celebrate the successes in life and business. He is good friends with many of the brewery owners who've started business in San Diego. That's because many of them are ex-employees of Karl Strauss. He said it's fun to share the experiences and their overall successes.

During the recent World Beer Cup and Great American Beer Festival

held in San Diego, 211 judges from 27 countries conducted blind-tastings over three days to determine the world-class examples of 95 different style categories. Overall, San Diego brewers took home medals in 16 of the 95 categories, including five gold awards, three silvers, and eight bronzes.

According to Cramer, San Diego has become a Mecca for great beer breweries and establishes the county as a great beer destination. There's not a shortage of beer in San Diego County. It's time to celebrate. Cheers!

In 2011, Karl Strauss brewed 40,000 barrels and ranked #44 on the list of the country's 2,000 top craft breweries. To learn more about Karl Strauss Brewing Company, visit www.karlstrauss.com.



Chris Cramer (left) with Patty Ducey-Brooks (right)

Cover Story



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• Slideshow

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The one where people got drunk and had regrettable sex

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The Slap heard Round the World on Real World: Seattle.

3. [May 8, 2012 • 7:30 am](#)
[Carla Pullum](#)

Pawn stars and my favorite memory is when The Old man gives Austin \$5.00 to buy a footlong from Subway and he comes back and eats it in front of him without sharing but then offers him chips!
Carla

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TCG Announces Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards

By: **Andy Propst** · Jul 13, 2011 · New York

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) has announced its first round of 2011 Edgerton Foundation New American Play awards. The grants have been given to 19 theaters to provide for extra time in the development and rehearsal of new plays.

The New York-based companies that have received grants are Manhattan Theatre Club for Zoe Kazan's *We Live Here* and New York Theatre Workshop for Lameece Issaq and Jacob Kader Hart's *Food and Fadwa*.

In addition, Williamstown Theatre Festival has received two Edgerton Foundation New American Play awards for Joseph Zettelmaier's *Dead Man's Shoes* and for John Doyle's *Ten Cents a Dance*, which features songs by Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart. Two plays by Don Zolidis have been honored with grants: *Current Economic Conditions*, which will be produced by The Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis; and *White Buffalo*, which will be produced by the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan.

Three Chicago companies have received grants: Lookingglass Theatre Company for Andrew White, Andre Pluess and Ben Sussman's *Eastland*, Steppenwolf Theatre for Frank Galati's *March*, and Victory Gardens Theatre for Jackie Sibbles Drury's *We Are Proud*.

In California, the companies that have been awarded grants are Aurora Theatre Company in Berkeley for Mark Jackson's *Salomania*, La Jolla Playhouse for Kristin Greenidge's *Milk Like Sugar*, The Old Globe in San Diego for Itamar Moses and Gaby Alter's *Nobody Loves You*, San Diego Repertory Theatre for Matthew Spangler's *Tortilla Curtain*, and Theatreworks in Palo Alto for Kim Rosenstock, Michael Mitnick, and Will Connelly's *Fly By Night*.

Other grants have gone to Arena Stage in Washington, DC for Tazewell Thompson's *Mary T and Lizzy K*, The Kansas City Repertory Theatre for Steve Cosson and Michael Friedman's *Great Immensity*, Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis for Ken LaZebnik's *On the Spectrum*, New Jersey Repertory Company in Long Branch for Jack Canfora's *Jericho*, and Trinity Repertory Company in Providence for Debora Salem Smith's *Love Alone*.

For more information, click [here](#).

John Doyle
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Posted: Mon., Oct. 10, 2011, 4:00am PT

Tuners dream of Broadway landing

Broadway and the Road 2011

By Bob Verini



'Jesus Christ Superstar'

To locally premiere a tuner and see it become a Great White Way cash cow is the trickiest of grails. Still, every "Memphis" keeps the dream alive for the likes of "Bonnie and Clyde," a La Jolla Playhouse alumnus from 2009 that's slated for a December opening at the Schoenfeld.

Managements are usually coy about their hopes. Yet surely some secretly pray that, as with ART's "The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess," a boat'll be leavin' soon for New York for any of the following tuners.

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

Des McAnuff's high-tech Stratford, Ontario, revival copped a La Jolla November slot when tuner hopeful "Finding Neverland" proved unready for primetime.

Why It Could Soar: Believers and agnostics alike adore this score.

Why It Could Sink: Overfamiliarity might elicit a general ho-hum.

"Chess"

Entrepreneur Craig Revel Horwood thinks he's cracked the legendary material after a long U.K. tour. Toronto, September.

Why It Could Soar: Marketing opportunities in the concept album's legions of fans, and Abba appeal rubbing off on Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus.

Why It Could Sink: Has it ever worked? Isn't all that Cold War stuff more than a little passe?

"Some Lovers"

After the promises, promises of another tuner after "Promises, Promises" (not to mention the Liv Ullmann movie musical "Lost Horizon"), Burt Bacharach returns for a modern spin on O. Henry's "Gift of the Magi," words by Steven Sater ("Spring Awakening"). Old Globe, December.

Why It Could Soar: Everything old can be new again, including Bacharach's signature '60s swing. His tricky, cheerful rhythms could be an interesting fit with Sater's emotional near-rhyming

Why It Could Sink: Overfamiliar and overadapted source material risks a case of the Christmas cutes.

"Newsies"

Extry! Punks pummel Pulitzer's papers; sing in solidarity. 1992 Disney cult pic transformed for Paper Mill Playhouse, September.

Why It Could Soar: Oppressed laborers bonding against the Man could have resonance in these anti-union times.

Why It Could Sink: Grit and authenticity will be needed to prevent the cadre of ragged-trouser newsboys from becoming a smarmy, precocious chorus line.

"Funny Girl"

Lauren Ambrose steps into the shoes of whatshername for the Fanny Brice bio's first pro revival since 1964. Ahmanson, February.

Why It Could Soar: Helmer Bartlett Sher revitalized under-revived classic "South Pacific."

There'll be interest in whether the "Six Feet Under" star can channel her inner Second Avenue comedienne.

Why It Could Sink: Tougher than replacing Streisand's memory may be cracking that second act, which was like watching paint dry as far back as '64.

"Nobody Loves You"

A guy tries to reconnect with his ex via a TV dating show. Originally titled "Reality!" when workshopped in 2008, the romance features music by Gaby Alter and words by Itamar Moses. Old Globe, May.

Why It Could Soar: Sounds like a smart and contempo premise, and though Alter's avowed influences are rock and pop he professes respect and reverence for the tuner form.

Why It Could Sink: Alter has said he likes "catchy melodies and simple refrains," but Moses' playwrighting is fond of subverting genres and expectations. These guys might need their own reality show to make this marriage work.

"Los Otros"

Chamber musical about a Mexican-American man and Southern Californian woman, from Michael John LaChiusa and Ellen Fitzhugh. Mark Taper Forum, June.

Why It Could Soar: Why not? It sounds different, and a mix of the personal and political is never amiss.

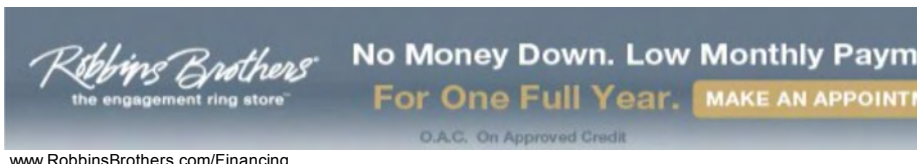
Why It Could Sink: LaChiusa has always been caviar to the general. Will the subject matter carry much punch east of the Rockies?

"Sleepless in Seattle"

Jeff Arch, who penned the 1993 hit pic, crafts a libretto to the tunes of rock- and jazz-based newcomers Michelle Citrin, Michael Garin and Josh Nelson. Pasadena Playhouse, June.

Why It Could Soar: Lovers who meet only at the finale will have interesting opportunities for coast-to-coast ballads and comedy numbers. Guys dragged there by their dolls will at least know what they're in for, and tartness in the telling could offset the sentiment.

Why It Could Sink: What can songs add to an already finely crafted vehicle? This one may hinge on casting. If Sam and Annie aren't totally winning, it could be one gloppy slog.



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[Kathy Evans](#), Founder and Executive Director of the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, announced that applications for summer 2012 are now being accepted. Musical theatre writers may apply as a team with one musical. The Rhinebeck Writers Retreat provides one-week residencies for writers to work on their musical in a home just outside of Rhinebeck, New York. There will be seven retreats offered in July and August. Applications are due February 15th and there is a submission fee of \$25. All information as well as the online application can be found at www.rhinebeckwriters.org.

Last summer's participants included 2011 Tony-nominee [Alex Timbers](#) and his collaborator [Michael Friedman](#), working on a musical version of *Love's Labour's Lost*; the band Groovelily -- [Valerie Vigoda](#), [Brendan Milburn](#), and [Gene Lewin](#) -- writers of *Wheelhouse* which will be premiered at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto this summer; [Itamar Moses](#) and Gaby Alter with *Nobody Loves You*, which will receive its premiere at [The Old Globe](#) in May; and [Andrew Gerle](#), whose *Gloryana* recently received readings with the support of the [Richard Rodgers Award](#).

The Rhinebeck Writers Retreat's mission is to provide a sanctuary for musical theatre writers to develop their musicals in the heart of the Hudson Valley. The organization asks for no money from participants, takes no share of future royalties, and gives each writer a small fee. All costs for the retreats are covered by contributions, including major support from [Stacey Mindich](#) Productions, Rick Farrar, [Brian Hargrove](#), John Levin and Diane Keefe Fund, Marcus Greenbaum Family, Jody and Giulio Martini, Susan Phillips, and Peter Risafi. www.rhinebeckwriters.org

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Hot tickets: This weekend in theater

Rounding up the premieres and final bows on San Diego stages

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Clifton Duncan and the cast of the Old Globe's "The Scottsboro Boys," which opens this weekend. — Henry DiRocco



Written by
**James
Hebert**

As a great philosopher once said (more or less): When one show closes, another opens. (Notwithstanding those never-say-close shows such as "Phantom of the Opera," which is destined to keep right on playing to audiences of swooning microbes long after the Mayan apocalypse wipes

[Most Popu](#)

12:17 p.m., May 4, 2012

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out Broadway and the rest of the planet. But anyway.)

Here's a look at the premieres and curtain calls in [San Diego](#) theater for the upcoming week:

- The Old Globe's high-profile Broadway import "[The Scottsboro Boys](#)" officially opens Saturday night, running through June 10. (See our [Sunday Arts preview piece](#).)

- La Jolla Playhouse's world-premiere musical "[Hands on a Hardbody](#)" continues in previews. The show's official opening is May 12; it runs through June 17.

- San Diego actor-comic Phil Johnson's solo show "[Hound of the Baskervilles](#)" opens tonight for a quick run at North Coast Rep in Solana Beach, through Sunday.

- JCompany Youth Theatre presents the third and final show in a season that has paid tribute to productions staged previously at the nearby La Jolla Playhouse. This time it's "[Xanadu](#)," the roller-skate-loving musical based (very loosely) on the incomprehensible yet weirdly charming 1980 movie. (Playhouse artistic chief Christopher Ashley directed both the Tony-nominated Broadway production and the Playhouse staging.) J*Company's production begins performances today.

- On Tuesday, supermodel-turned-songstress Christie Brinkley [rolls into town](#) to play Roxie Hart in the musical "[Chicago](#)," which is launching its latest U.S. tour at the Civic Theatre downtown. That production runs through next Sunday.

- Next Thursday brings the first preview of another Old Globe musical: the reality-TV-centric "[Nobody Loves You](#)." The world-premiere work, with a book by the versatile young playwright Itamar Moses (doing his first musical), opens May 17 and runs through June 17 in the Globe's arena-style White Theatre. We'll have a full preview of the show in the May 13 edition of the U-T's Sunday Arts.

- And a couple of shows whose already-opened runs continue past this weekend: The powerful "[Topdog/Underdog](#)," through May 12 at Ion Theatre in Hillcrest; and the [bittersweet comedy](#) "[Brownie Points](#)" at Lamb's Players, through May 27.

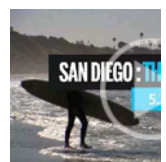
- This weekend is your last chance to see the time-bending love-triangle saga "[The Pride](#)" at [Diversionary](#); it has three more performances between tonight (Friday) and Sunday.

- And ditto for a show that's admittedly been a little under our radar: "[Thoroughly Modern Millie](#)," the spring production at the Coronado School of the Arts (which has become quite an incubator for strong theater talent over the past couple of years). Haven't seen this one, but a COSA rep assures us the show includes the following features: "Outstanding lead performances, an intricate and stunning art-deco set, gorgeous 1920s-era

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Tuesday, May 8th 2012

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A Mother's Day adventure

Road trip to favorite local haunts, with picnic, is Mom's idea of a perfect day

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On the menu for this Mother's Day picnic: Blackberry Limeade, Grilled Rosemary-Garlic Chicken Baguette Sandwiches and Crackling Oatmeal White Chocolate Chip Cookies. Eduardo Contreras • U-T photo | Food styling by Jill O'Connor

By Jill O'Connor,
Special to the U-T

"What do you want to do for Mother's Day, Mommy?" My daughters ask me this every year.



Mom

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CLIC

1:55 p.m., May 8, 2012
Updated 1:55 p.m.

In San Diego, we are spoiled with an endless variety of choices. Not for me would be juggling breakfast in bed and spilling coffee on the sheets, or an expensive buffet brunch where I am tempted to eat my body weight in bacon. There will be no idling by the chocolate fountain for mama and family this Mother's Day. We're heading out for a little adventure; a mini local road trip to some of my favorite haunts around San Diego. We might start at Azucar, a Cuban-style bakery and cafe on Newport Avenue in Ocean Beach. It's a great place to begin a day of antiquing. Fortified with a Dulce de Leche Macchiato and Pain au Nutella. I could spend hours wandering around Vignettes, one of my favorite places on this avenue filled with shops full of antiques and collectibles.

A stroll through Balboa Park might be my next choice. I love wandering through the Botanical Building, gazing at the orchids while my girls stare at the carnivorous plants, willing them to dine on an unsuspecting insect. While we're ambling around, I might be tempted to get my tarot cards read by one of the local "psychics" who set up shop near the 43-foot-long reflecting pool. Originally named Las Lagunas de las Flores and now the Lily Pond, it is filled with Japanese koi, waterlilies and the occasional turtle. Then it's off to the Prado for an order of spicy calamari fries and pomegranate margaritas (for mom and dad) or pulled pork sliders and soft drinks (for the girls.) "Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition" at the San Diego Natural History Museum is open on Mother's Day, too, and the story of this 100-year-old tragedy still fascinates. If I am really lucky, we might end the day with a play at The



Grilled Rosemary-Garlic Chicken Baguette Sandwiches have lots of flavor and are easy to assemble. Eduardo Contreras • U-T photos | Food styling by Jill O'Connor



Crisped rice cereal is the secret ingredient of these big, chewy Crackling Oatmeal-White Chocolate Chip Cookies.

Mother's Day road trip

Azucar: 4820 Newport Ave., San Diego; www.iloveazucar.com

Vignettes: 4828 Newport Ave., San Diego; www.vignettesantiques.com

Balboa Park Botanical Building: 1549 El Prado, San Diego; www.balboapark.org

The Prado: 1549 El Prado, San Diego; www.cohnrestaurants.com

The Old Globe Theatre: 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego; www.theoldglobe.org

The Coronado Historical Association: 1100 Orange Ave., Coronado; www.coronadohistory.org

Delux Dogs: 943 Orange Ave., Coronado; www.deluxdogs.com

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- U-T POLL: BAN ON

Old Globe Theatre; this Mother's Day, "Nobody Loves You," a musical comedy about a behind-the-scenes peek at reality TV sounds like a lot of fun.

Or we can stick close to home and explore Coronado. The Coronado Historical Association hosts its annual Historic Home Tour on Mother's Day this year. Seven historical homes were chosen to represent the classic architecture that is sprinkled all over the island. After the tour, we can stop for a gourmet hot dog at the newly opened Delux Dogs on Orange Avenue. More than likely, we'll do what we like best and head to Coronado Beach with a homemade picnic or pack up our bikes for a lazy ride around the Island.

The key to a great Mother's Day picnic is choosing a simple, fresh, fun menu packed with robust flavors; one that won't break the bank or destroy the kitchen and is easy for beginners (or dad and the kids) to prepare. After all, it's hard to celebrate mom if you leave her a sink full of dirty dishes to wash.

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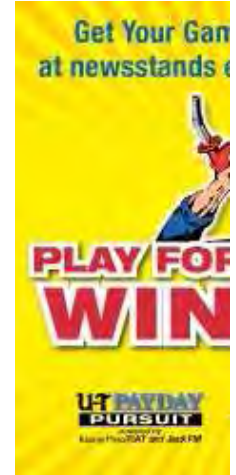
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Rhinebeck Writers Retreat Announces Eight New Musicals for the Summer, Beg. 7/1

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[Kathy Evans](#), Founder and Executive Director of the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, announced the eighteen writers who were selected for residencies this July and August. Each week, for eight weeks, one musical theatre writing team will work on their musical in a home in Rhinebeck, New York.

The award-winning participants for 2012 include [John Caird](#), [Paul Gordon](#), [Glenn Slater](#), Laura Eason, [Jenny Giering](#), Scott Murphy,

Nathan Christensen, [Chris Dimond](#) and [Michael Kooman](#). This year's eight musicals were selected from 55 applications by a panel, which included [Tory Bailey](#) (Theatre Development Fund), [Neil Bartram](#) (Composer), [Gigi Bolt](#) (William Inge Festival), [Nick Demos](#) (Demos/Bizar Entertainment), [Brian Hill](#) (Bookwriter), Donna Lynn Hilton ([Goodspeed Musicals](#)), [Kevin Moore](#) (The Human Race Theatre Company), and [Michael Robertson](#) (The Lark Play Development Center).

The complete line-up of writers and projects selected for this summer, and the generous contributors supporting each week are:

- July 1 – 8: [John Caird](#), Sam Caird, and [Paul Gordon](#); Little Miss Scrooge, supported in part by The Harry, Cathy, Gabriella and James Rubin Foundation.
- July 8 – 15: Alexandra Collier and Greta Gertler; Willow's One Night Stand, supported by Alec Stais and Elissa Burke
- July 15 – 22: Nathan Christensen and Scott Murphy, Broadcast, supported by [Stacey Mindich](#) Productions
- July 22 – 29: Sean Barry, Laura Eason, and [Jenny Giering](#), The Sisters Fox, supported by [Stacey Mindich](#) Productions
- July 29 – Aug 5: [Wendy Wilf](#) and [Glenn Slater](#); Beatsville, supported in part by John Levin and Diane Keefe Fund
- August 5 – 12: [Henry Aronson](#) and [Cailin Heffernan](#), Loveless Texas, supported in part by Jody and Giulio Martini




- August 12 – 19: Christopher Dimond and [Michael Kooman](#); The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes, supported by The Noël Coward Foundation.
- August 19 – 26: [Darrah Cloud](#) and [Kim Sherman](#), Makeover, supported in part by the Marcus Greenbaum Family and Susan Phillips

Created in 2011, the Rhinebeck Writers Retreat is a 501 (c) 3 organization whose mission is to provide a sanctuary for musical theatre writers to develop their musicals in the heart of the Hudson Valley. Last year's participants included [Itamar Moses](#) and Gaby Alter, with Nobody Loves You, which is now playing at [The Old Globe](#) in San Diego; Groovelily's Wheelhouse, which opens next month at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto; and [Andrew Gerle](#)'s Gloryana, for which Andrew was just awarded the Kleban Prize. Writers pay nothing to participate in Rhinebeck Writers Retreat and all costs are covered by donations. We are grateful to our many donors who make it possible. In addition to the contributors sponsoring the eight retreats, RWR has also received major support from [American Express](#), [Elizabeth Evans](#), Rick Farrar, [Brian Hargrove](#), and Peter Risafi. For more information, visit www.rhinebeckwriters.org.

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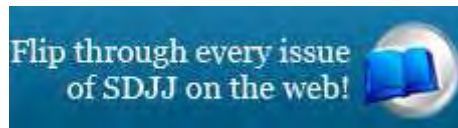
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What's Goin' On: No June Gloom on the Arts Scene

by Eileen Sondak | [June 2012](#), [Popular Stories from SDJJ](#) | [Post your comment »](#)



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By Eileen Sondak

There's no June gloom hovering over the local entertainment scene. The Old Globe is ready to launch its summer season on the Festival Stage with a three-play repertory. Broadway-San Diego is bringing back Broadway's biggest blockbuster, "Wicked." The La Jolla Playhouse is putting the finishing touches on the West Coast premiere of "Blood and Gifts." Symphony Pops is tuning up for summer. The Lamb's will unveil a new musical, and the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus features Steven Schick conducting a world premiere.

Broadway-San Diego has to send “The Addams Family” packing after its June 3 performance at the Civic Theatre, but coming June 20 is “Wicked,” another family-friendly musical that has garnered 35 major awards. This story of the Wicked Witch of the West (well before Dorothy showed up in the Land of Oz) is clever and wickedly entertaining. This must-see musical will remain at the Civic through July 15.

The La Jolla Playhouse will present “Blood and Gifts” June 12-July 8. This spy story takes place during the Soviet Afghan War in the 1980s and offers a slice of historical fiction laced with black humor. The Playhouse also continues to show off “Hands on a Hardbody,” a new musical by Pulitzer Prize-winner Doug Wright. This Playhouse-commissioned work is about a publicity stunt that turns into a battle of wills. “Hands on a Hardbody” runs through June 10 at the Mandell Weiss Theatre.

The Old Globe will get its Shakespeare Festival ready for the summer June 3, when the outdoor Festival Stage features three plays in rotation through Sept. 30. The Bard’s “As You Like It,” one of his most beloved comedies, will alternate with “Richard III,” a portrait of one of the most diabolical villains in all of literature. The only non-Shakespeare play on tap is “Inherit the Wind,” the powerful courtroom drama that pits two great lawyers against each other in a case loosely based on the real-life Scopes Monkey Trial.

The Globe’s production of “Nobody Loves You,” a musical comedy directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, remains ensconced at the White Theatre through June 17. The funny and irreverent show is about the search for real love on the set of a reality TV show. Meanwhile, the Globe’s Main Stage is still delivering the goods with “The Scottsboro Boys,” a daring musical with music and lyrics by Kander and Ebb, and direction and choreography by Susan Stroman. This shocker, based on the notorious case of nine unjustly accused African American men in the 1930s, will close June 10.

The Lamb’s will take audiences on an exotic voyage to a South Seas island in its new musical titled “Joe vs. The Volcano.” The show focuses on a young man who rediscovers life and learns about love on this adventure. The musical opens June 8 and will continue at the troupe’s Coronado home through July 29. Fans of “MixTape” will be pleased to know that long-running show will continue through July 8 at the Lamb’s downtown theater in the Horton Grand.

Cygnnet Theatre’s “Dirty Blonde” is still going strong at the Old Town Theatre. The play centers around an aspiring actress who admires Mae West. She shares that devotion with a film librarian, and together they find self-confidence and romance. The show (set to run through June 17) features musical numbers and flashbacks into the life of the “Red Hot Mama.”

The San Diego Symphony will kick off the Summer Pops Season June 23, with its Tux ‘n’ Tennies Gala. This year, it will be a tribute to the Beatles. June 29-July 1 is “Star Spangled Pops,” with Marvin Hamlisch on the podium and a spectacular display of fireworks in the air.

The San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival starts the month June 1-2 with Ida Levin and Marie Berard on violin, as the group performs works by Verdi, Brahms, Mozart and others at the Neurosciences Institute. June 6, the orchestra returns to the Balboa Theatre for a program that includes Tchaikovsky and Haydn, followed on June 9 by James Ehnes on violin, performing Schubert, Bach and others. Mainly Mozart will perform June 10 in Rancho Santa Fe. The series continues June 12, 14 and 16 with works for harp, oboe and piano. Cellist Lynn Harrell and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott will perform works by Beethoven June 22-23 at the Neurosciences Institute.

The La Jolla Symphony will feature Maestro Steven Schick conducting The Russian Composer, a brand new piece by Igor Korneitchouk. Also on the program, set for June 9-10, are works by Barber and Stravinsky. Pianist Aleck Karis is guest artist.

North Coast Repertory Theatre is celebrating the genius of Harold Pinter with “Two by Pinter: ‘The Lover’

[called Queen Bee's](#) that now houses "Zumba fitness classes, salsa dancing, steampunk bands, youth programs, masquerade balls" and more. (U-T)

- The New York Times' theater critic Charles Isherwood calls The Old Globe's "Nobody Loves You," the satirical look at reality TV, "a [delightful chamber musical](#)."

And up the road, [Isherwood appears to have enjoyed watching](#) the La Jolla Playhouse's current "Hands on a Hardbody." He drew special attention to the facet that stood out most to me, as well:

He writes: "The show strikes a fresh, topical note for American musical theater by training a compassionate eye on the struggles of the lower-middle classes. ... Its characters are drawn with insight, sympathy and a refreshing lack of condescension."

- The Tony Awards showed the Playhouse some love, [awarding five prestigious honors](#) to the Playhouse-originated "Peter and the Starcatcher" in Sunday's ceremony. North County native and UC San Diego alum Paloma Young won for best costumes. The U-T's theater critic James Hebert was in New York for the awards and [filmed a video interview backstage](#) at 'Starcatcher' with Young. (U-T San Diego)

Happening Here

- A national study said arts organizations in San Diego County are [responsible for more than 20,000 jobs](#) and \$665 million in economic activity — both what the organizations spend and what their audiences spend on dinner before a show, for example. (U-T)

Angela Carone pulled another interesting nugget out of the study:

"When compared to many cities and regions of comparable size, San Diego's arts industry spends far more. ... For example, the city of Phoenix is slightly bigger than San Diego, but our arts industry spends almost twice as much."

(KPBS)

- Think of the difference between the way a cello sounds and a trumpet, playing the same note. Even at the same length, pitch and volume, the notes sound different. But what words do you use? The trumpet sounds more ... trumpety?

The concept — timbre — was the center of a recent discussion and performance hosted by Mainly Mozart, where noted neuroscientist Ani Patel teamed up with cellist Ronald Thomas. We've been interested for a long time in the intersections of music and the brain. Here's [a guide to our coverage](#) of local research into how our brains process music.

- Artists Vincent Robles and Deanne Sabeck were noted as "emerging artists" in the San Diego Art Prize for this year. An [eclectic show of their work and a handful of other](#) promising, interesting artists is up at the Susan Street Fine Art Gallery in Solana Beach for a few more weeks. (U-T)
- The [annual contemporary music festival](#) "soundON" opens this weekend at the Athenaeum in La Jolla.
- The perplexing plays of influential British playwright Harold Pinter don't show up on local stages very often, but North Coast Rep has two right now, and Wall Street Journal theater critic Terry Teachout said the theater is "[doing them extremely well](#)" in Solana Beach. (WSJ)
- Local sculptor, designer and architect Chris Puzio is the focus of [this gorgeous documentary](#) feature by local filmmaker and photographer Charles Bergquist, shot over more than a year in Puzio's studio. (Sezio)

Pay special attention halfway through to my favorite moment in the piece, as Puzio delivers a giant piece, nestled on a flatbed truck, to

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RAMONA

The state's official outdoor play based on Helen Hunt Jackson's 1884 novel, chronicling the story of the many struggles of early California. Ramona Bowl Amphitheatre, 27400 Ramona Bowl Road, Hemet. \$29-\$34. (951) 658-3111. ramonabowl.com.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Barber by day, matchmaker by night, Figaro puts his wiles to work as he aids the count in wooing the beautiful Rosina. This riotous musical comedy is one of the most popular in the operatic repertoire. San Diego Opera, Civic Theatre, Third Ave. and B St., downtown San Diego. Also April 24, 27 & 29. \$50-plus. 619-533-7000. sdoopera.com.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

TICKLED PINK

Dreaming of a dancing career on Broadway, Mindy Solomon moves to New York, but events soon force her to rethink her grand plan. The play is an insider's viewpoint of the world of stand-up comedy, and a touching tale of love, loss, female friendship and forgiveness. The Laguna Playhouse, Moulton Theatre, 606 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. Through May 20. \$30-\$45. (949) 497-2787. lagunaplayhouse.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

HANDS ON A HARDBODY

When an auto dealership in Longview, Texas launches an endurance contest, ten economically strapped strangers embark on a journey that puts their hearts, minds and bodies to the test. The contestant who keeps at least one hand on a brand-new hardbody truck the longest gets to drive it off the lot. La Jolla Playhouse, UCSD Campus, Mandell Weiss Theatre., 2910 La Jolla Village Dr., La Jolla. Through June 10. \$30-\$60. (858) 550-1010. lajollaplayhouse.org.

RHONE-STYLE BLENDS WINE TASTING

Wines from France's Rhone Valley can be blends of Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre and a variety of other grapes. Sample seven Rhone-style blends from France and California. Bacchus Wine Bar and Market, 647 G St., San Diego. Also April 28. \$20. (619) 236-0005. bacchuswinemarket.com.

UPLAND LEMON FESTIVAL

A three-day salute to all things lemon. Lemon pie-eating contest, Lemon Idol competition, a carnival, Western area featuring "Gunsmoke" TV show tribute, live entertainment, arts

and crafts, rides and a kids' fair. Downtown Upland. Through April 29. (909) 931-4399. uplandlemonfestival.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

A SURPRISE MUSICAL

A musical about high school in the 1950s. OnStage Playhouse, 291 Third Ave., Chula Vista. Through May 26. \$14-\$16. (619) 422-7787. onstageplayhouse.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS



Based on the notorious "Scottsboro" case of the 1930s, this inspiring and shocking story tells of the nine unjustly accused African American men whose lives would eventually spark the Civil Rights Movement. The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through June 10. \$39-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

MAY

THURSDAY, MAY 3

CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE

A fusion of two art forms as aerial fliers, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, jugglers and strongmen perform to classical masterpieces and memorable contemporary music. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through May 5. \$25-\$185. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

JEKYLL & HYDE, THE MUSICAL

Based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story about a brilliant doctor whose experiments with the human personality create a murderous counterpart. McCallum Theatre, 73000 Fred Waring Dr., Palm Desert. Through May 6 \$25-\$35. (760) 340-2787. mccallumtheatre.com.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

CLASSICS AT THE MERC

Old Town Temecula Community Theater, The Merc, 42051 Main St., Temecula. \$11. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

Alan Gilbert, conductor; Yefim Bronfman, piano. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, 600 Town

Center Dr., Costa Mesa. \$50-\$350. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

NOBODY LOVES YOU

When Jeff, a young grad student, joins a reality television show to try and win back his ex, he unexpectedly meets a girl who might be the love of his life. But when seduced by the adulation of his fans, Jeff must decide what is more important – fame or love? The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through June 17. \$29-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

EXHIBITIONS

INNER VISIONS: WOMEN ARTISTS OF CALIFORNIA

The Irvine Museum, 18881 Von Karman Ave., Ground Fl., Irvine. Tues.-Sat. Through June 7. \$5. (949) 476-2565. irvinemuseum.org.

ENDS OF THE EARTH: FROM POLAR BEARS TO PENGUINS

Discover the unique nature of the Earth's polar regions, the science undertaken there, and how these regions are indicators of climate change on Earth. Relive polar expeditions through the eyes of great explorers, learn about the formation and size of icebergs and conduct experiments. San Diego Natural History Museum, 1788 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through April 15. \$14-\$16. (619) 232-3821. sdnhm.org.

SAN DIEGO'S CRAFT REVOLUTION

This original exhibition documents a fascinating, inspiring and overlooked chapter of San Diego's recent past: the important contribution of San Diego craftsmen from the post-war period beginning in the 1940s up through the 1970s. San Diego's Craft Revolution – From Post-War Modern to California Design will explore the progression from sleek modernism to unconventional handmade objects of use such as furniture, doors, jewelry and ceramics. Over 60 artists will be featured in the show, including Rhoda Lopez, Jack Hopkins, Kay Whitcomb and James Hubbell. Mingei International Museum, 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through April 15. \$8. (619) 239-0003. mingei.org.

EYES OF A NATION

A Century of American Photography. A look at the rich history of American photography by artists working in the 1870s-1970s. The exhibit explores the aesthetic growth of photography as it developed into an art form, while presenting the unique power of the medium to document and inform visitors with compelling images. Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park, 1649 El Prado, San Diego. Through May 13. \$6-\$8. (619) 238-7559. mopa.org.

Get the Word Out. E-mail your announcements to Claire Fadden, cfadden@lifeafter50.com. Include a brief description, location, date, time, cost, phone and website. Submission does not guarantee publication. Deadline for the May issue is April 1.



TUESDAY, APRIL 24

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

Inspired by the true story of the famed recording session where Sam Phillips, the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll," brought together icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for one unforgettable night. "Million Dollar Quartet" brings that legendary session to life with an irresistible tale of broken promises, secrets, betrayal and celebrations. The show features an eclectic score of rock, gospel, R&B and country hits including; "Blue Suede Shoes," "Fever," "Sixteen Tons," "Who Do You Love?," "Great Balls of Fire," "Matchbox," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" and "Hound Dog." Segerstrom Hall Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Samueli Theater, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa. Through May 6. \$20-\$83. (714) 556-2787. scfta.org.

VOLUME 13

ISSUE 5

May 2012

SAN DIEGO

DOWNTOWN NEWS

Columbia • Core/Civic • Cortez Hill • East Village • Gaslamp/Horton Plaza • Little Italy • Marina

24 San Diego Downtown News | May 2012

Lively Arts

Charlene Baldrige

If it's May, it must be a musical by Kander & Ebb. You've got two choices, "Chicago" at the Civic Theatre and "The Scottsboro Boys" at The Old Globe.

The Old Globe

The Old Globe presents two musicals this month, in the Old Globe Theatre Kander & Ebbs' historically based, recent Broadway show, "The Scottsboro Boys," and in the White Theatre, the world premiere of Gabe Alter and Itamar Moses' "Nobody Loves You" – a bona fide original musical comedy. Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, \$29 and up, the-oldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.

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Rhapsodic!

Posted: April 27th, 2012 | [Arts & Entertainment](#), [The Lively Arts](#) | [No Comments](#)

Lively Arts | Charlene Baldrige

If it's May, it must be a musical by Kander & Ebb. You've got two choices, "Chicago" at the Civic Theatre and "The Scottsboro Boys" at The Old Globe.

Copley Symphony Hall

San Diego Symphony closes its season May 4-6 with pianist Jon Kimura Parker and the orchestra, under the baton of Jahja Ling, devoting themselves to rhapsodies, foremost George Gershwin's famed "Rhapsody in Blue," then Enesco's Rumanian Rhapsody, Alfven's Swedish Rhapsody and Rachmaninoff's familiar Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini. 8 p.m. Thursday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday; \$20-\$96, 7th & B Street, sandiegosymphony.org or 619-235-0804.

Civic Theatre

Broadway San Diego presents supermodel Christie Brinkley as Roxie Hart in Kander & Ebb's "Chicago," a killer musical about tough female convicts. Tuesday, June 8 through Sunday, June 13, Civic Theatre, 3rd and B Street, \$25-\$110, broadwaysd.com or 619-570-1100.

The Old Globe

The Old Globe presents two musicals this month, in the Old Globe Theatre Kander & Ebbs' historically based, recent Broadway show, "The Scottsboro Boys," and in the White Theatre, the world premiere of Gabe Alter and Itamar Moses' "Nobody Loves You" – a bona fide original musical comedy. Old Globe Theatre, Conrad Prebys Theatre Center, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park, \$29 and up, theoldglobe.org or 619-234-5623.

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Calendar

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

WED
16

All hands on truck at La Jolla Playhouse

World-premiere musical 'Hands on a Hardbody' leads our coverage of plays in local production

By [David L. Coddon](#)



A Nissan truck is a principal part of the cast of *Hands on a Hardbody*

- Photo by Kevin Berne

If you live in East Texas and you don't own a truck, you're a loser—or so believe the contestants vying to win a hardbody truck, courtesy of the Floyd King Nissan Dealership in Longview. None of them wants to be a loser, and to avoid being one, he or she must keep at least one gloved hand on the giveaway truck at all times (minus 15-minute breaks). Last one standing and still touching wins.

That's ostensibly the story of *Hands on a Hardbody*, the world-premiere musical at [La Jolla Playhouse](#) created by Doug Wright (book), with music and lyrics by Amanda

Green and Phish guitarist / composer Trey Anastasio. But it doesn't take very long, or any stretch of the imagination, to perceive that the win-the-truck contestants, many of them down-on-their-luck dreamers, are competing for something much more. The truck, on the stage at all times and rightfully considered by the producers to be the musical's "16th character," is a four-wheeled metaphor. (It's a shame that the show's closing number includes an explanation to that effect, one that wasn't at all necessary.)

Under the direction of Neil Pepe, a game cast led by Keith Carradine (his singing voice still as poignant as it was 37 years ago in *Nashville*) illuminates Anastasio and Green's likable score,

Eat.
May 1

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SUB

Local
Meet &

which flits from country to gospel to power balladry. The contestants' individual stories—each gets at least one showcase moment—unfold à la *A Chorus Line*. In that show, we peeked inside the souls of Broadway dancers. In *Hands on a Hardbody*, which is based on a true story previously told in a 1997 documentary, our view is of 10 very different people whose aspirations are less grandiose, but no less real.

A lengthy but lively first act, distinguished by a percussive, *Stomp*-like sequence with the truck as an "instrument," is followed by a second act that grapples with everything from bigotry to the scars of the Iraq War. Then *Hands on a Hardbody* turns wide-eyed, solemnly saluting "The Tryers" and wrapping a feel-good ribbon around the only in-America irony of 10 Texans trying to win a Japanese truck made in Tennessee.

Hands on a Hardbody runs through June 17 at La Jolla Playhouse. lajollaplayhouse.org.

Write to davidc@sdcitybeat.com and editor@sdcitybeat.com.

Opening

Dirty Blonde: An aspiring actress on an annual trek to Mae West's gravesite meets a film librarian who shares a devotion to the iconic sex symbol. Produced by Cygnet Theatre, it opens in previews on May 17 at The Old Town Theatre.

Nobody Loves You: In this musical comedy—which opened May 9 but didn't make our listings last week—a grad student of philosophy goes on a reality TV show to get his ex back. Will he rekindle the old flame or light a new one? Runs through June 17 at The Old Globe's Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre.

Now Playing

Chicago: You know Christie Brinkley from Sport Illustrated swimsuit covers, a failed celebrity marriage and a role as a hottie in National Lampoon's Vacation. Now you can see her as Roxie Hart in this Prohibition-era musical. Runs through May 13 at the Civic Theatre, Downtown.

Late Nite Catechism: The participatory solo comedy by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan turns 20 years old this year. Through May 19 at Welk Resorts Theatre in Escondido.

Master Harold... and the Boys: Teenage stage and film actor and San Diego native Austyn Myers has formed a new company, Living Light Theatre, and for its first show, Myers has chosen this play about the relationship between a white 17-year-old and two black servants in Apartheid-era South Africa. Runs through May 20 in the Lyceum Space at Horton Plaza, Downtown.

No Child...: InnerMission Productions and the Mesa College Drama Department present Nilaja Sun's humorous and topical take on education in a low-income community, written as a one-woman show but performed here by a full cast. It runs through May 20 at the Apolliad Theatre at Mesa College.

Stepping Out: Amateur dancers are invited to perform at a big party in this upbeat comedy. Are they up to the task? Through May 20 at Welk Resorts Theatre in Escondido.

Topdog / Underdog: Ion Theatre borrows Moxie Theatre's Delicia Turner Sonnenberg to direct this dark-comic tale of rivalry between two brothers, jokingly named Lincoln and Booth. Through May 20 at BLK BOX @ 6th & Penn in Hillcrest.

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CALENDAR

Orange County/San Diego/Inland Empire
MAY 2012



SATURDAY, MAY 12

THE TOUCH OF THE ORACLE

This exhibit features three monumental site-specific installations – “Golden Rain,” “Joshua D’s Wall” and “The Dilemma.” These artworks provide an opportunity to experience the work of Michael Petry, an installation-based conceptual artist who draws inspiration from art history, mythology and contemporary culture. While Petry is not traditionally associated with the studio glass movement, his creative sensibilities are stimulated by the medium of glass in monumental works. Palm Springs Art Museum, McCormick Gallery, 101 Museum Dr., Palm Springs. Through July 29. \$11-\$13. (760) 322-4800. psmuseum.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 10

TOTEM

Cirque du Soleil performers trace the fascinating journey of the human species from its original amphibian state to its ultimate desire to fly. Characters evolve on stage evoking a giant turtle, the symbol of origin for many ancient civilizations. Inspired by many founding myths, the story unfolds through visual and acrobatic language, the evolutionary progress of species. A cast of 53 artists from 18 countries includes a hoops dancer, roller skaters, acrobats, unicyclers and a juggler of luminous orbs. Through May 13. \$49-\$149. Under the Grand Chapiteau, Del Mar Fairgrounds, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. cirquedusoleil.com.

CHICAGO

This tale of greed, murder, corruption and show biz is filled with hit songs like “All That Jazz,” “Cell Block Tango” and “Razzle Dazzle.” Christie Brinkley makes her highly anticipated Broadway tour debut reprising her killer role as Roxie Hart. San Diego Civic Theatre, Third and B St., 1100 Third Ave., downtown San

44 LIFE AFTER 50 MAY 2012



Diego. Through May 13. Prices vary. (619) 570-1100. broadwaysd.com.

THE FLOWER FIELDS AT CARLSBAD RANCH

Giant Tecolote Ranunculus flowers bloom, transforming the rolling hills of North San Diego County into a spectacular and coordinated display of natural color and beauty. Explore 50-acres including the one-

acre Orchid Showcase and the 4,000 sq. ft. Paul Ecke Jr. Family Barn designed to recall even more of a ranch setting. The Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch, Paseo Del Norte, Carlsbad. Through May 13. \$10-\$11. (760) 431-0352. theflowerfields.com.

STEPPING OUT

In this raucously funny musical, eight tap students present a huge tap extravaganza that they have worked on for eight weeks while developing their skills and overcoming their inhibitions. Welk Resorts Theatre, 8860 Lawrence Welk Dr., Escondido. Dates vary through May 20. \$44-\$47. (888) 802-7469. welktheatre.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

A CHORUS LINE

Based on the true stories of Broadway dancers taped in two all-night sessions. The musical features “What I Did for Love” and “One.” Plummer Auditorium, 201 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton. Thurs.-Sun. through May 27. \$22-\$56. (714) 589-2770. 3dtshows.com.

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

The death of Mr. Dashwood leaves his second wife and three daughters in dire financial circumstances. The lack of fortune affects the marriage ability of both practical Elinor and romantic Marianne. Can love find a way to transcend class, status and reputation or will hardship thwart a happy ending for both the sister who is “all sense” and the one who is “all sensibility?” LifeHouse Theater, 1135 N. Church St., Redlands. \$14-\$18. Weekends through May 13. (909) 335-3037 ext. 21. lifehousetheater.com.

TICKLED PINK

Dreaming of a dancing career on Broadway, Mindy Solomon moves to New York, but events soon force her to rethink her grand plan. The play is an insider’s viewpoint of the world of stand-up comedy, and a touching tale of love, loss, female friendship and forgiveness. The Laguna Playhouse, Moulton Theatre, 606 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach. Through May 20. \$30-\$45. (949) 497-2787. lagunaplayhouse.com.

OREGON BALLET THEATRE

The classically based repertory ballet company will dance the works of George Balanchine, William Forsythe, Lar Lubovitch, Christopher Wheeldon, Trey McIntyre, Jerome Robbins, and Christopher Stowell. Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St., Temecula. Weekends through May 12. \$20-\$25. (866) 653-8696. temeculatheater.org.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

MACHIAVELLI

When the dangerous de Medicis take control of Florence in 1524, Machiavelli does all he can do to circumvent the vain Guliano de Medici and his war-mongering nephew

Lorenzo. Put into exile, Machiavelli finds inspiration to write The Prince, and becomes the prototype of modern power politics, keeping his friends close and his enemies closer. Riverside Community Players, 4026 14th St., Riverside. Through May 27. \$15-\$18. (951) 369-1200. riversidecommunityplayers.com.

NOBODY LOVES YOU

When Jeff, a young grad student, joins a reality television show to try and win back his ex, he unexpectedly meets a girl who might be the love of his life. But when seduced by the adulation of his fans, Jeff must decide what is more important – fame or love? The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through June 17. \$29-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

NATURESCAPE-IN-A-BOX WORKSHOP

NatureScapes are yards and landscapes that provide healthy habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Nature-friendly landscaping helps conserve water, reduce pollution runoff and may even save time and money on maintenance. Includes composting workshop. South Bay Botanical Garden’s Composting Site, Southwestern College, 900 Otay Lakes Rd. Chula Vista. Free to Chula Vista residents. Reservations (619) 409-3893.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

HANDS ON A HARDBODY

When an auto dealership in Longview, Texas, launches an endurance contest, ten economically strapped strangers embark on a journey that puts their hearts, minds and bodies to the test. The contestant who keeps at least one hand on a brand-new hardbody truck the longest gets to drive it off the lot. La Jolla Playhouse, UCSD Campus, Mandell Weiss Theatre., 2910 La Jolla Village Dr., La Jolla. Through June 10. \$30-\$60. (858) 550-1010. lajollaplayhouse.org.

THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS

Based on the notorious “Scottsboro” case of the 1930s, this inspiring and shocking story tells of the nine unjustly accused African American men whose lives would eventually spark the Civil Rights Movement. The Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Donald and Darlene Shiley Stage, Balboa Park, San Diego. Through June 10. \$39-plus. (619) 234-5623. theoldglobe.org.

RESPECT: A MUSICAL JOURNEY OF WOMEN

Through the lyrics of Top 40 songs, “Respect” tells the story of women in the 20th century. The popular, high-energy musical combines excerpts from 60 songs with women’s personal stories of struggle from co-dependent to independent and from being the property of their husbands to presidents of corporations. The Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton

LA JOLLA LIGHT

Enlightening La Jolla Since 1913

Vol. 100, Issue 20 • May 17, 2012

Online Daily at www.lajollalight.com

La Jolla's Best Bets For Events



At The Old Globe

Filled with tuneful pop songs, **"Nobody Loves You"** takes audiences on a behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open ... until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection? Matinees, evenings May 9-June 17, Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Tickets: From \$29. (619) 234-5623. TheOldGlobe.org

Tuesday, May 29th 2012



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By Union-Tribune

12:01 a.m., May 27, 2012
Updated 2:06 p.m. , May 25, 2012

Also of interest

FESTIVAL EMBRACES
CHAMBER MUSIC

The Kavafian sisters play
nice

A DIFFERENT SORT OF
SIGHTSEEING

Mainly Mozart brings
chamber music under
festival umbrella

Suggestions for summer
sight seeing

Mainly Mozart

With Ida Levin, Marie Bérard, violins; Che-Yen Chen, Richard O'Neill, violas; Ronald Thomas, Robert deMaine, cellos

6:30 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday.
The Neurosciences Institute, 10640
John Jay Hopkins Drive, La Jolla.
\$55. (619) 239-0100 or
mainlymozart.org

Six string musicians are scheduled to perform several classical renditions Friday and Saturday evening. Among those pieces are Verdi's String Quartet No. 1 in E minor and Mozart's String Quintet No. 1 in B flat, K. 174. Before the performance, there will be a wine reception outside the auditorium. A Q&A with the musicians will follow the concert.



ART---Art works by Alex Kanevsky, "PAINTING FOR VELASQUEZ". "Painting for Velazquez," 2010, 36 x 36.jpg -- Grace Madamba Communications & Events Coordinator Lux Art Institute 1550 S. El Camino Real Encinitas, CA 92024 P: 760.436.6611 F: 760.436.1400 www.luxartinstitute.org



R.A. SCOTT • U-T

Alex Kanevsky

Lux Art Institute

1550 S. El Camino Real, Encinitas.
(760) 436-6611 or
luxartinstitute.org

Alex Kanevsky, the Russian-born recipient of the 1997 Pew Fellowship for painting, will exhibit his works at the Lux Art Institute over the next two months. Kanevsky has received praise across the United States and Europe, and his art will now leave its mark in San Diego. The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts graduate will be in residence at the Lux, working on four 36-by-36-inch panels, two 12-by-96-inch panels, and smaller sketches through June 30.

R.A. SCOTT • U-T



THEATER---Kelsey Kurz as Christian and Lauren Molina as Megan in the World Premiere musical *Nobody Loves You*, with music and lyrics by Gaby Alter and book and lyrics by Itamar Moses, directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, May 9 - June 17, 2012 at The Old Globe. Photo by Henry DiRocco.



THEATER---"Respect": A Musical Journey of Women---Leigh Scarritt (F), Nancy Snow Carr (L), Lisa H. Payton (B), Kelsey Venter (R). Photos by Ken Jacques.



Jan. 9, 2010, San Diego, Ca.- 2010's first Jacobs's Masterworks concert features the Symphony's Principal Viola Che-Yen Chen performing Handel's Viola Concerto. (Earnie Grafton/Union-Tribune) Photo by Earnie Grafton/The San Diego Union-Tribune/Zuma Press. Copyright 2009 by the San Diego Union-Tribune.

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WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

U-T | AN EDITION OF U-T SAN DIEGO

NIGHT & DAY

MAY 31–JUNE 6, 2012

PLAYBILL

Critic's Choice

"Nobody Loves You": This world-premiere musical set in the world of reality TV gets a lot of good laughs out of its clueless characters and gleefully over-the-top songs. The romantic comedy by playwright Itamar Moses ("The Four of Us," "Back Back Back") and composer Gaby Alter ("Band Geeks!") may plink at some easy targets and conclude without a whole lot of consequence, but the trip it takes to the most ridiculous fringes of reality-land still can be a blast to witness. (Hebert) Sheryl & Harvey White Theatre, 1362 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Through June 17. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org. Tickets start at \$29.

"The Scottsboro Boys": This daring, unsettling and deeply affecting musical — the last by the great team of Kander and Ebb ("Cabaret," "Chicago") — re-imagines a real-life legal travesty visited on nine black youths in 1930s Alabama. The beautifully acted show (directed and choreographed expertly by Broadway's Susan Stroman) subverts old minstrel-show conventions to demonstrate how festering prejudice enabled an appalling injustice—one that eventually inspired the civil-rights movement. (Hebert) Old Globe Theatre, 1363 Old Globe Way, Balboa Park. Through June 10. (619) 234-5623, theoldglobe.org. Tickets start at \$39.



The world-premiere musical "Nobody Loves You" runs through June 17 at the Old Globe Theatre.

HENRY DIROCCO

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The BottomLine



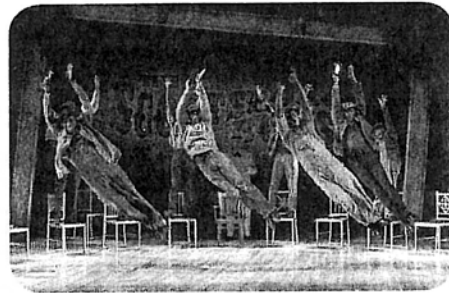
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THE PREMIER LGBT PUBLICATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
June 1 - 14, 2012 · Volume 31 · Issue 20

CALENDAR **SAN DIEGO**

SAN DIEGO **NOW**

JUNE 1 -14, 2012



FRIDAY 06/01 - 06/10

THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS - DATES & TIMES VARY

At the Old Globe. This daring and wildly entertaining new musical, directed by five-time Tony Award winner Susan Stroman, explores a pivotal moment in American history with arresting originality, innovative staging and a breathtaking score. Based on the notorious "Scottsboro" case of the 1930s, this inspiring and shocking story tells of the nine unjustly accused African American men whose lives would eventually spark the Civil Rights Movement. 619.234.5623 / oldglobe.org

FRIDAY 06/01 - 06/17

NOBODY LOVES YOU DATES & TIMES VARY

At the Old Globe. A funny and irreverent World Premiere musical romantic comedy! Filled with tuneful pop songs, *Nobody Loves You* takes audiences on a hilarious behind-the-scenes ride through reality television and into real life. When Jeff, a philosophy grad student, joins a dating show to win back his ex, he breaks all the rules and tries to blow the game wide open - until he meets Jenny. In a world where every kiss is staged for the cameras, can two people find a real connection? 619.234.5623 / oldglobe.org

WEDNESDAY



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**ANNUAL
MAINLY MOZART
FESTIVAL
ORCHESTRA**
June 6 thru 16
at The Balboa Theatre
mainlymozart.org

**OUT @ CYGNET
FEATURING
DIRTY BLONDE**
An evening for theatre lovers
from The LGBT community
6:30 p.m. at Cygnet's
Old Town Theatre
cygnettheatre.com



21 2012 GSDBA BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON:
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
11:30 a.m.
The Grand Ball Room at The Prado
gsdba.org

**LIVE MUSIC
NIGHT
AT INN AT
THE PARK**
Featuring Andy Anderson
& Nathan Fry
Every Wednesday
from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
innattheparkdining.com




7 **STEVEN BRINBERG'S
"SIMPLY BARBRA"**
8 p.m. at Martinis Above Fourth
martinisabovefourth.com
CYGNET PRESENTS
DIRTY BLONDE
May 17 thru June 17
at Cygnet's Old Town Theatre
cygnettheatre.com



14 **LAUGH OUT PROUD
COMEDY SHOW
FEATURING
FAITH CHOICE**
8 p.m. at Martinis Above Fourth
martinisabovefourth.com



21 2012 GSDBA BUSINESS AWARDS LUNCHEON:
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
11:30 a.m.
The Grand Ball Room at The Prado
gsdba.org



28 **THE MAN WHO
CAME TO DINNER**
June 29 thru August 5
at the Coronado Playhouse
coronadoplayhouse.com



8 **LA PRIDE WEEKEND**
June 8 thru 10 in West Hollywood
lapride.org
EDEN PRESENTS:
"FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS"
WITH DJ DIRTY KURT
edensandiego.com



15 THE OLD GLOBE'S WORLD-FAMOUS
**SUMMER SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL**
June 3 thru September 30
theoldglobe.org
INDIGO GIRLS
7:30 p.m. at Humphreys Concerts by the Bay
humphreysconcerts.com



22 **MELISSA ETHERIDGE**
8:45 p.m. at the Open Sky Theater
Harrah's Rincon
harrahsrincon.com
HARMONY, KANSAS
A WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL
June 14 thru July 22
Diversionsary Theatre
diversionsary.org



29 **STAR-SPANGLED POPS
WITH MARVIN HAMLISCH**
June 29 thru July 1
Embarcadero Marina Park South
sandiegosymphony.org



9 **LMFAO PRESENTS
"SORRY FOR PARTY ROCKING TOUR"**
7 p.m. at the Valley View Casino Center
valleyviewcasino.com
**DINNER WITH
THE DREAMGIRLS**
Every Saturday Night at Bourbon Street
bourbonstreetsd.com



16 **BABY'S BRUNCH
AT BABYCAKES**
Every Saturday & Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
babycakesandiego.com
BOWLING FOR TREVOR
A BENEFIT FOR THE TREVOR PROJECT
4 p.m. at Kearney Mesa Bowl
facebook.com/sdambassadors



23 SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY TUX 'N' TENNIS
SUMMER BASH CONCERT:
TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES
6 p.m. at Embarcadero Marina Park South
sandiegosymphony.org
HOUSE BOI PRESENTS:
LOCAL DESIGN AND CLOTHIER, APB
TRUNK SHOW
12 p.m. at House Boi



30 **LAUGH OUT LOUD
WITH COMEDIAN
RICH LITTLE...
AND HIS BAND!**
Presented by San Diego Center
for Jewish Culture's Look
& Listen Performing Arts Series
8 p.m. at David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

No June Gloom on the Arts Scene

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The La Jolla Playhouse will present "Blood and Gifts" June 12-July 8. This spy story takes place during the Soviet Afghan War in the 1980s and offers a slice of historical fiction laced with black humor. The Playhouse also continues to show off "Hands on a Hardbody," a new musical by Pulitzer Prize-winner Doug Wright.

There's no June gloom hovering over the local entertainment scene. The Old Globe is ready to launch its summer season on the Festival Stage with a three-play repertory. Broadway-San Diego is bringing back Broadway's biggest blockbuster, "Wicked." The La Jolla Playhouse is putting the finishing touches on the West Coast premiere of "Blood and Gifts." Symphony Pops is tuning up for summer. The Lamb's will unveil a new musical, and the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus features Steven Schick conducting a world premiere.

Broadway-San Diego has to send "The Addams Family" packing after its June 3 performance at the

Civic Theatre, but coming June 20 is "Wicked," another family-friendly musical that has garnered 35 major awards. This story of the Wicked Witch of the West (well before Dorothy showed up in the Land of Oz) is clever and wickedly entertaining. This must-see musical will remain at the Civic through July 15.

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The La Jolla Playhouse continues
"Hands on a Hardbody" at the Mandell
Weiss Theatre through June 10.



PHOTO BY KEVIN BERNÉ

that turns into a battle of wills. "Hands on a Hardbody" runs through June 10 at the Mandell Weiss Theatre.

The Old Globe will begin its Shakespeare Festival June 3, when the outdoor Festival Stage features three plays in rotation through Sept. 30. The Bard's "As You Like It," one of his most beloved comedies, will alternate with "Richard III," a portrait of one of the most diabolical villains in all of literature. The only non-Shakespeare play on tap is "Inherit the Wind," the powerful courtroom drama that pits two great lawyers against each other in a case loosely based on the real-life Scopes Monkey Trial.

The Globe's production of "Nobody Loves You," a musical comedy directed by Michelle Tattenbaum, remains ensconced at the White Theatre through June 17. The funny and irreverent show is about the search for real love on the set of a reality TV show. Meanwhile, the Globe's Main Stage is still delivering the goods with "The Scottsboro Boys," a daring musical with music and lyrics by Kander and Ebb, and direction and choreography by Susan Stroman. This shocker, based on the notorious case of nine unjustly accused African American men in the 1930s, will close June 10.

The Lamb's will take audiences on an exotic voyage to a South Seas island in its new musical titled "Joe vs. The Volcano." The show focuses on a young man who rediscovers life and learns about love on this adventure. The musical opens June 8 and will continue at the troupe's Coronado home through July 29. Fans of "MixTape" will be pleased to know that long-running show will continue through July 8 at the Lamb's downtown theater in the Horton Grand.

Cygnat Theatre's "Dirty Blonde" is still going strong at the Old Town Theatre. The play centers around an aspiring actress who admires Mae West. She shares that devotion with a film librarian, and together they find self-confidence and romance. The show (set to run through June 17) features musical numbers and flashbacks into the life of the "Red Hot Mama."

The San Diego Symphony will kick off the Summer Pops Season June 23, with its Tux 'n' Tennies Gala. This year, it will be a tribute to the



Back again by popular demand, "Wicked" comes to the Civic Theatre June 20-July 15, courtesy Broadway-San Diego.

PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS

Beatles. June 29-July 1 is "Star Spangled Pops," with Marvin Hamlisch on the podium and a spectacular display of fireworks in the air.

The San Diego Mainly Mozart Festival starts the month June 1-2 with Ida Levin and Marie Berard on violin, as the group performs works by Verdi, Brahms, Mozart and others at the Neurosciences Institute. June 6, the orchestra returns to the Balboa Theatre for a program that includes Tchaikovsky and Haydn, followed on June 9 by James Ehnes on violin, performing Schubert, Bach and others. Mainly Mozart will perform June 10 in Rancho Santa Fe. The series continues June 12, 14 and 16 with works for harp, oboe and piano. Cellist Lynn Harrell and pianist Anne-Marie McDermott will perform works by Beethoven June 22-23 at the Neurosciences Institute.

The La Jolla Symphony will feature Maestro Steven Schick conducting The Russian Composer, a brand new piece by Igor Korneitchouk. Also on the program, set for June 9-10, are works by Barber and Stravinsky. Pianist Aleck Karis is guest artist.

The North Coast Repertory Theatre is celebrating the genius of Harold Pinter with "Two by Pinter: 'The Lover' and 'The Dumb Waiter.'" The pair of plays, directed by David Ellenstein, will remain at the troupe's Solana Beach home through June 17. These are two of the early one-acts by this master playwright, and they represent a rare treat for theater-goers.

San Diego Repertory Theatre's Lyceum Theatre continues to offer "Respect: A Musical Journey of Women." The revue examines 20th century women through 40 songs and will remain on stage until June 24.

Christian Community Theatre will show off some of San Diego's most talented seniors in its "Senior Follies" show June 21-24 at the Lincoln Performing Arts Center.

San Diego Musical Theatre will feature the critically acclaimed "Rent" at the North Park Theatre June 22-July 8.

Moonlight's summer season at the Moonlight Amphitheatre opens June 27 with "Legally Blonde." The musical will remain in Vista through July 14. ☆