



A LESSON IN PROPER BOW-FLUFFING TECHNIQUE Ties Together Comedy and Compassion

New Play Asks:

Can the holiday spirit survive the holiday season?

Reviewed by Elizabeth Lopez

"A Lesson In Proper Bow-Fluffing Technique," directed by Lee Costello and produced by Isabel Storey, written and starring Trey Nichols, is a one-man play about the trials and tribulations of a customer service associate who experiences highs and lows during the Christmas season. Everyone can relate to the characters he brings to life. After seeing this show, you will never see people in Customer Service the same way again. Nichols is hilarious in this candid, day-in-the-life portrayal of a crazed and frantic customer service worker during the Christmas season. It's a sweet and funny look into the world of consumer and human madness as seen through the eyes of a professional bow-fluffer.

Nichols plays himself, as a sweet and dedicated customer service rep who slowly becomes half-crazed as the holiday excitement and demands from his customers threaten to devour him alive. Nichols is fantastic as the bow-fluffing nazi who commands like a drill sergeant, 'Forward, back, one loop at a time', never mind that his students are a group of developmentally challenged teenagers. Nichols is delightful as he furiously jumps from one kooky character to the next. This visit to your neighborhood department store is bound to make you chuckle as Nichols experiences zany mishaps and everyday annoyances from co-workers, some of whom may even resemble someone from YOUR work place.

This play has some very amusing moments. Nichols is terrific as he morphs into his annoying supervisor, or when he's interacting with a team of four developmentally challenged teenagers. Another funny favorite is when he anxiously tries to communicate in Spanish to a Spanish customer and her kids. His characterizations are right on the money. These funny and colorful customer complainers will surely tickle your funny bone. This and more is what makes this show a must see for the Christmas season.

The theater, Praxis Studios, has the right kind of small and cozy, antique-store feel; the front lobby has big store windows (where you would normally see display-clothed mannequins) adding to the department store feel, along with an organ piano and store décor. As you enter further, a long narrow hallway filled with quaint little tables and heating lamps like an outdoor patio, leads you to the small but very comfortable auditorium. The theater experience is enhanced by the décor and overall 'feel' of the theater. It's a terrific place to see a play.

Also, kudos to the team for: Lighting Design by Christopher Singleton, Set Design by Akeime Mitterlehner, and Sound Design by Kurt Thum.