

The State Journal-Register Archives

Article 1 of 15, Article ID: 0000605907

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'Hay Fever' provides plenty of laughs

With its mild-mannered comedy, Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" is an amusement. Its slight farcical touches and condescending cat fights aside, it never tries to be a gut buster. And despite a handful of sluggish spots, there is an amiable air to this production from the theater department at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Its biggest and best laughs come from Beverly Ryan and Melissa Betty, two actresses connecting wholly and humorously with their characters.

By NICK ROGERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Article 3 of 15, Article ID: 0000604092

Published on April 8, 2004, State Journal-Register, The (Springfield, IL)

British laughs / Noel Coward play focuses on a fractious family

Even the best families have "those days," where tempers flare to the fever point and arguments rule conversation. As weekend guests visit the ironically named Bliss family in Noel Coward's "Hay Fever," Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson says it becomes "a weekend of those days." He's directing the University of Illinois at Springfield's production of Coward's 1925 comedy, the spring production of the 2003-04 season for the university's theater program.

By NICK ROGERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Article 7 of 15, Article ID: 0000588929

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UIS actors prove their talent in 'Proof'

"Proof" is a high-caliber drama, more concerned with the idiosyncrasies of its characters than forcing them through a melodramatic narrative. Immense credit goes out to the four-member cast of the production presented by the University of Illinois at Springfield's theater department. Even when David Auburn's play erupts with emotion, each actor is tuned into the quieter, deeper side of his or her character. Auburn takes us into the world of mathematicians.

By NICK ROGERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Article 9 of 15, Article ID: 0000588627

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Prove it / 'Proof' examines the line between genius and insanity

Everyone walks around with a little craziness inside them. Some people are wasting money on therapy; other people who think they don't need it are the ones who must have it the most. "Proof," winner of three Tonys in 2001, is a play examining this balance of intelligence and insanity. It kicks off the second season of the University of Illinois at Springfield's newly renewed theater department when it opens Friday. "It's an examination of genius.

By NICK ROGERS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Article 11 of 15, Article ID: 0000562253

Published on February 23, 2003, State Journal-Register, The (Springfield, IL)

Ensemble work makes UIS's 'A Lie of the Mind' memorable

Sam Shepherd's play "A Lie of the Mind" is the second presentation by the University of Illinois at Springfield Theater program. This production, which opened Friday in the Studio Theater, fared better than their inaugural work but wasn't without a few missteps. The show, though, was memorable thanks to keen ensemble work and some artistic distinctions throughout. "A Lie of the Mind" is a thorny piece of work.

By MARY YOUNG Correspondent

Article 12 of 15, Article ID: 0000561804

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Dark family portrait / UIS theater department tackles a gritty Shepard drama

Anna Dow isn't sure just how far to go in a scene where she tearfully recounts the disturbing circumstances of her character's father's death. "I know it's hard to do," says director Eric Thibodeaux-Thompson. "Just breathe and it will be there. It's not the crying that's dramatic, but trying not to cry." The scene is one of many wrenching moments in Sam Shepard's cutting family drama "A Lie of the Mind."

By NICK ROGERS Arts & Entertainment Writer

Published on October 23, 2002, State Journal-Register, The (Springfield, IL)

'It's Only A Play' a fast-paced, witty parody

Terrence McNally's "It's Only A Play" is one of many plays that actually are about the theater. Given the presumed egos, back stabbings and insecurities that go along with theater life, one can guess its contents are less than flattering. Why playwrights and performers would engage in this self-masticating may seem a mystery. But with a show that ridicules actors, producers, writers, directors, family pets and critics, it's at least hard to be offended by any one.

By MARY YOUNG CORRESPONDENT