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A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

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PAT MUSICK says "loved it" - June 08, 2013

Tonight was an amazing night of theater. Janet Miller has mounted a brilliant production with a shining cast at The Lillian Theater for The Fringe. Terence McNally's Irish musical is sparkling, and this production is not to be missed. The performances are remarkable, the singing first rate, and the celtic score played by excellent musicians. Do NOT miss this show! ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



DONNA DU BAIN says "loved it" - June 08, 2013

This excellent, deftly directed and superbly acted by this sparkling ensemble made for some of the best theatre I've seen in a while and I am your avid theatre goer. I definitely plan on going again and would recommend you put it on your list as a"must see" at the Fringe this year. The resonance for the Irish Catholics (past or present) will even increase the laughter and poignancy of this piece. Such a touching story of a gentle, sensitive man finding himself within his small community of friends in Dublin, both lyrical and whimsical. The live band accompaniment was spectacular. Would love to spend an evening just listening to them with a Guinness in my hand. ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



MARIA ALEXANDER says "loved it" - June 09, 2013

This musical beautifully directed and choreographed by Janet Miller is packed full of laughs and heartbreaking moments as it explores the lonely life of bus conductor Alfie Byrne. There were so many terrific performances, gently woven with mesmerizing Oscar Wilde quotes and poetry. The brilliant musical numbers crackled with energy as a live Irish band set the stage on fire for several unforgettable tunes. And there is a hilarious "Dance of the Seven Veils" that absolutely kills! Don't miss this highly entertaining production that will leave you with a longing to stroll the streets of Dublin and lend a hand to all the Alfie Byrnes in the world. You love whom you love..... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ANONYMOUS says "liked it" · June 10, 2013

This was a very tightly directed and acted show and the entire company should be proud of this first production. I only wish the musical itself was more compelling. I am not exaggerating when I say that nothing in the way of character/plot advancement happens in the first hour. You get a lot of pretty Oscar Wilde quotes and whispy songs expressing sentiments about the love of performing theatre or reading poetry but there is zero conflict (or meat) until 60 minutes into this 150 minute show, and even then it's only a hint that something COULD happen. Bad newa: not much does. For me, the show plays out with far too slight a culmination for such a heavy time investment. The band was excellent and the tech elements immaculate (I even ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



MARY NUNEZ says "loved it" - June 17, 2013

What a funny, heartwarming production! Took all my friends from work on a lovely warm Friday evening and we had the best time! Janet puts on a heck of a show and the actors brought the story to life. Loved the musicians, they were perfectly in synch with the actors and did not play so loud you could not hear the singing - much appreciated! Can't wait for another of Janet's shows!... full review



SHARI BARRETT says "loved it" - June 09, 2013

I know this fantastic musical production, brilliantly directed by Janet Miller, is going to the THE HIT of the Hollywood Fringe Festival. It's all about love and embracing how lucky you are to find it in your life, no matter the form it takes. Dominic McChesney is perfectly cast as are all the actors in the show, and their harmonic mastery will enthrall you from start to finish. Rush to get your tickets before they are gone!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



LIZ REINHARDT says "loved it" - June 08, 2013

Lovers of musical theater and theater in general MUST go see the rarely-produced "A Man of No Importance" at Fringe. The amateur theater troupe play-within-a-play is reminiscent of ...Guffman, but the story, music, voices and heart is beautiful beyond belief. Kudos to Janet Miller's heartfelt direction, Corey Hirsch's amazing band and the beautiful performances of friends Gail Matthius, Keith Barletta, Shirley Hatton and all the others. The Lillian Theater's atmosphere made for the perfect setting, and no surprise that Kathy Gillespie's costumes were top notch. So were Rebecca Schroeder's "Guinness pints!" And it's FUNNY too! Especially Gail, not surprisingly... My heartily audibly laugh could be heard throughout the show, and at one poi... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



RANDY KASPER says "loved it" - June 18, 2013

What a terrific show! Talented cast, engrossing story, GREAT staging. And the live music - gorgeous! My husband commented that the music alone was worth the price of admission. Thank you for bringing this theatrical magic to Los Angeles. ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



MICHAEL SHAPIRO says "loved it" - June 10, 2013

What a pleasant surprise to encounter such a tight, professional-grade production in a modest theater in the Fringe festival. The direction and acting were superb, the live band spot-on, and the vocal perforance quality only a small notch below - and this was opening night. As for the material: having mixed feeings about Flaherty and Ahrens' other works, I was taken aback by how touching, funny, and moving I found this musical to be. It bears some comparison to The Commitments, though the underlying theme is ultimately darker and more poignant. Kudos to the obviously very devoted theater company behind this effort. Highly recommended overall.... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ANNA MATHIAS says "loved it" · June 11, 2013

Janet Miller has done a wonderful job, bringing this play and mid-century Dublin to life. The ensemble and the musicians were wonderful. I enjoyed the surprises within the script, itself. A very polished show. Funny and touching. Go!... full review



DEBORAH LACUSTA says "loved it" · June 12, 2013

Rare to see this musical done, and in such a first class production. Janet Miller directs a polished ensemble. Touching story, with a dash of 60s Dublin. The ensemble putting on an amateur theatre production of "Salome" hits all the right humorous notes!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



CAROL EASTON says "loved it" · June 12, 2013

In a very long lifetime of theatergoing, I have rarely seen anything this good. Run, do not walk, to the box office.... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



SER MATTHIAS WYVERNLEY says "loved it" - June 13, 2013

Oh, I loved this wee Irish Musical. Janet Miller is a wonderful woman, and it's about time that she's had her own forum. I wish Good People Theatre Company all the very best, but judging from their first EXCELLENT production, they don't need my good thoughts or prayers. The talented company of actors absolutely transformed that little stage into a bit of magic that transfixed my heart from beginning to end. I loved the stirring Irish tunes, the lovely humor, and the touching story is one that will linger with me. ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ELLEN DOSTAL says "loved it" · June 16, 2013

Fringe shows run the gamut. You'll see everything from hastily rehearsed vanity projects to edgy original pieces, and works-in-progress of all kinds. Each one is worthy of a look for there are hidden jewels everywhere and you never know exactly where you'll find one. Happily, I can tell you where you can see one right now. At the Lillian Theatre in Hollywood. There, a brand new L.A. theatre company is making its debut by presenting A Man of No Importance, a handsomely staged Irish musical written by Terrence McNally, with music & lyrics by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens. It is directed & choreographed with exceptional skill by Janet Miller who presents a beautifully polished production in every regard. The attention to detail is exempla... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



JOSH HILLINGER says "liked it" - June 15, 2013

A veeery, very, very sweet show. Wonderful acting and singing. Very sweet. Difference between like it and love it for me is just the content, the show itself. My mom would LOVE it!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



CORBIN SMITH says "loved it" - June 15, 2013

Uniformly stellar cast delivered consistently great performances, the costumes and lighting design were superb, the band was as good as you'll hear, and the script, while a little dated, is really bittersweet and beautiful. Easily one of the best theater evenings I've had and everyone involved should be immensely proud of the results of their hard work!... full review



ROB MEES says "loved it" - June 15, 2013

The theater is set up with the idea of making the audience feel involved in the musical not just observing it. The actors approach the stage from every direction including behind and through the audience. The writing is a wit unseen in most musicals I've had to pleasure to enjoy. The actors renditions are "practically perfect in every way" to steal a line from a classic that none the less describes their performances completely. The music is intoxicating and seeps into your very soul. The musicians and singers are highly skilled and bring the charming songs to life in an infectious way that will keep you humming them all week long. My girlfriend and I can't stop breaking into "Books!" whenever there is a quiet moment. Overall I can'... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



MARGOT ETTL says "loved it" · June 16, 2013

Uplifting, witty, polished, and fun. The script, lyrics, musicians, actors, staging, and setting were wonderful! It is a poignant story with universal relevance and the production was a truly satisfying experience!... full

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ROBERT MACHRAY says "loved it" - June 16, 2013

I was unfamiliar with A Man of No Importance. What a lovely show. Well cast and well directed in a simple but powerful production. I loved the music. Congrats to all involved... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



BILL WATKINS says "loved it" · June 16, 2013

Man of No Importance was a sensitive look at freedom in relationship, choosing and not choosing who to love, and acceptance. The music was nice, the playful and funny numbers my favorite, "Going Up" and "Books."... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



LESLIE WOOLLEY says "loved it" · June 16, 2013

Wonderful production of this poignant Terrence McNally play. Well cast actors are very good and fun to watch. I cried at the end. The live music is superb too! Thank you for a really enjoyable evening. ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



IAN FEDERGREEN says "loved it" - June 17, 2013

An Irish bus driver finds escape in the world of theater. This musical is awfully precious, but it's hard not to be charmed by a cast so uniformly excellent and direction so sharp. This is a fully costumed, fully lit, fully staged, and fully produced full length show- a notch above most anything else you'll find at Fringe. fringeblog.webs.com ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



DAVID C. NICHOLS says "loved it" · June 17, 2013

Given cherished memories of the wonderful L.A. premiere concert mounting for MTG by Nick DeGruccio in 2006, it's doubly gratifying to report that this first full-out staging stands completely on its own delightfully unforced, funny and touching terms. By putting the essential human requirements of script, score and casting front and center, Janet Miller and her heartfelt colleagues nail the property's tricky mix of delicacy and directness. Big huzzahs all around for fully realizing this specialized chamber musical, an extremely special event. ... full review



TONY FRANKEL says "loved it" · June 17, 2013

See my review, A PRODUCTION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, at Stage and Cinema:

http://www.stageandcinema.com/2013/06/17/a-man-of-no-importance-good-people-hollywood-fringe/... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ANONYMOUS says "loved it" - June 15, 2013

Everything about this show was wonderful. A lovely story told with humor and heart performed by a great cast and masterfully directed. Go see this show!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ANONYMOUS says "loved it" - June 11, 2013

Very talented cast who can act and sing. The story really touched my heart. Just brilliant! YOU MUST SEE THIS PLAY!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ANONYMOUS says "loved it" - June 19, 2013

The play was very engaging. The actors transformed simple staging into a rich experience for the audience. I thought the actors who played Alfie and Lily were especially good. The band added a lot to the show and the musicians were wonderful. The story was sweet and a little sad, but had a lovely satisfying end. A feel good show about a tough subject especially in that era. Overall, I loved the show and highly recommend it! ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ANONYMOUS says "liked it" - June 20, 2013

Great cast, moving songs. I just felt that it dragged a bit in places.... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



FLOYD RIGGLE says "loved it" - June 20, 2013

I had the privilege of seeing "A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE" opening night. I enjoyed the show immensely. The music was great (Little 4 piece comb but sounded like more), with the performers doing perfect blend. Keep in mind this is a small venue and balance / blend is vital. The show (albeit being opening night) felt like a well-polished product that had been running in front of an audience for weeks. The actors could not have been better. Janet Miller's talents are well apparent in this piece. All aspects of the production received obvious detailed attention to insure quality of production. I look forward to the next "Janet Miller" production! If you have to make a choice to see one show over another, I highly recommend A MAN OF ...

Was this review helpful? yes · no

full review



TINA HORTON says "loved it" - June 20, 2013

I enjoyed this show very much. The cast was excellent and worked together like a well oiled machine. Janet Miller has taken a little known piece made it a masterpiece. I highly recommend a look at this well down production.... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



PHIL OAKLEY says "loved it" - June 20, 2013

I have grown dispirited over the state of most small-theatre productions (especially musicals) over the years and I approached "A Man of No Importance" with no small amount of trepidation. Much to my surprise, I was presented with a glittering gem of a production, guided in so many aspects by the wonderfully talented Janet Miller. The band, led by Corey Hirsch, made me feel as if I were having a few pints with my mates in a cozy Dublin pub. The costumes were lovely and vibrant with nary an inauthentic stitch anywhere to be found. And what a cast! Dominic McChesney truly embodied the soul of the lonely misfit Alfie. Shirley Hatton practically owns the stage whenever she's upon it as Alfie's sister. And Keith Bartletta -- his rendition ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



TERRI LANDERS says "loved it" · June 20, 2013

Top Notch. A wonderfully written sweet play with a superb cast and a brilliant, talented director. It will make you laugh, cry, gasp and cheer. Definitely worth the standing ovation it received. Kudos to Director Janet Miller, the cast, the crew and the musicians.... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



CAMELA DEAN says "loved it" - June 20, 2013

This was a great show! We had great seats and the performers where excellent! Thanks to the wonderful Cast and Director! A great time was had by all! ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



MELISSA SWIFT says "loved it" - June 22, 2013

From the moment the irrepressible music started and the glorious sounds of the voices of this cast started singing, I was hooked. This small, and practically perfect, production had me at the first hints of Irish music and those amazing voices. Janet Miller and Corey Hirsch have achieved no small feat here with this upstart company. You should see it. It will warm your heart and soul and make you feel you've had a few pints on it too. I had thought the state of theatre in LA was quite sad lately, but this is the best piece of theatre with the most astounding music, acting and voices, and one of the gentlest and truly heartfelt professional performances I've seen in ..well, perhaps forever in LA! Go see it and have a pint on that too! ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



STEVEN STANLEY says "loved it" · June 22, 2013

Sometimes wishes do come true. Back in September of last year, following a superb concert staged reading of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty's A Man Of No Importance, I ended my review with a wish: "Isn't it time that A Man Of No Importance got a fully-staged L.A. production?" Now, a mere nine months later, that wish comes true as director-choreographer extraordinaire Janet Miller and her new Good People Theater Company offer Los Angeles audiences that fully-staged A Man Of No Importance, as all-around perfect a production as this or any musical theater lover could possibly have wished for. Based on a 1994 film starring Albert Finney as the titular Man Of No Importance, the award-winning Lincoln Center musical adaptation transports ... full review



ANONYMOUS says "loved it" · June 23, 2013

Truly theater as it should be: compelling, provocative and actually leaving the audience wanting more!

Absolutely perfectly balanced. An extraordinary, talented cast created characters that made one want to sing along with them. The quality of every aspect of staging, music, lights, sound, costume and set filled every moment with a great deal to care about. It is so good the company made it look easy. ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ROCKY LANE says "loved it" - June 23, 2013

The Play is well written, the music and lyrics are beautiful, the band is stellar; what great ensemble work. The actors are committed & create this great world in Dublin. It is a poignant story told by great acting. I only have differences in opinion in the actual staging & because the actors were mic'd I feel like they held back. It's Hollywood... Go see it! You will be glad you supported a wonderful piece of theater. I was moved by the acting!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



COREY CHAPPELL says "loved it" - June 23, 2013

"A Man of No Importance" has it all - a tight & witty script, good music, talented cast, great costumes, a minimal but well-used set and brilliant direction. The accents were superb & the message - "Love Who You Love", really resonated with me. I LOVE this show!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



JOE DONOHOE says "loved it" - June 23, 2013

I was very moved by this production! Janet Miller is clearly a brilliant director. The show moved seamlessly with a realism that is lacking from far too many shows these days. Heart-wrenching performances from Dominic McChesney, Shirley Anne Hatton, and Dominic McChesney, and an all-around beautifully cast ensemble. From the costumes, to the lighting, to the set, it was a wonderful experience. WELL DONE! Can't wait to see their next production. ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



JAN L savs "loved it" - June 23, 2013

A Man Of No Importance has such a talented cast. The strength of the actors was such that they transformed the stage from various scenes ranging from a bus, to a church basement, to a street scene, graveyard, bar, and more, primarily by moving around several chairs. Exceptional scenes included Lilly (Shirley Anne Hatton) singing "Tell Me Why", Baldy (Matt Stevens) singing "The Cuddles Mary Gave", and Robbie and Alfie (Keith Barletta and Dominic McChesney) on "Love Who You Love". Matt Franta was outstanding as both Peter and Breton Beret. I was hoping to see more tapping by Gail Matthius! Audrey Curd was appealing as Adele. All of the other actors were excellent in their roles, too, with beautiful singing throughout. The actors were a... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



ROBERT FINK says "loved it" - June 23, 2013

It's a very "classic" kind of Broadway show for the Fringe, but it is also perfectly placed in a small, intimate theater -- because the people in the story are small, ordinary people, and the view of their emotions on display is intimate and moving. That said, the production has a surprising size, like one of those magic bags in Harry Potter that is small on the outside but surprisingly capacious on the inside. There are only four musicians on stage, but they sound like a full orchestra. There are a few chairs and tables, but they become a church social hall, an apartment, a pub, and, even a bus in motion. The show is about the power of friendship in a time of intolerance, and the cast supports each other in an amazing way -- there's n... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



DAVID SCOTT says "liked it" · June 24, 2013

A Man of No Importance is a beautiful play, well written and with striking music. The production here is well-worth one's time and effort. However, it is not the most dynamic production and while the performances are nuanced, they tend at times to recede into the rather mundane set (with the exception of standout Shirley Anne Hation). Perhaps this is due to the performers being amplified, which can become a crutch by allowing the actors to depend on the incongruous microphones. Oddly enough, at times it was difficult to hear the singers simply due to a lack of volume, and at times the staging constricted the performers putting them in untenable positions. So, while I really enjoyed the play, I think in the hands of a different director,... full

review



JOSE CASAS says "loved it" · June 24, 2013

This was a an incredible play! It was one of those theatrical events where every aspect of the production was spot on. The ensemble cast were fantastic and the director did an incredible job of utilizing the space. The musicians added to such a great experience. I cannot recommend this musical enough. See it before it is too late!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



PAUL EIDING says "loved it" · June 25, 2013

A lovely surprise. I didn't know this show and went on recommendations from friends. SO GLAD I DID. What a wonderful night, at the theatre! Kudos to all concerned. And a sincere, THANK YOU, for sharing your talents with this appreciative audience member.... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



JERRY CHAPPELL says "loved it" - June 25, 2013

"A Man of No Importance" is a love story; love for Art, love for family, love for friends, romantic love, and love for self. I didn't know what to expect going in. I specifically went to see a friend of mine perform, and was pleasantly surprised by the story. While the story isn't necessarily original, there are plot points that stray from typical love triangle dramas. Especially in the social dialogue if today, this comedic drama touches on some very important issues and the company tells the story with talented performances and simple, yet effective use of the stage. I thoroughly enjoyed this piece. Even though it was long at 2.5 hours, it never felt long. Highly recommended. ... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



AMELIA PAWLAK says "loved it" · June 28, 2013

I'm a tough audience - and this production, under the brilliant direction of Janet Miller, is exquisite in its direction, music, acting, lighting and staging. I'm not a musical theatre fan because most musical theatre I've experienced is so "schticky" - and it pulls me out of the story - and frankly, the acting is mediocre (at best). The opposite is true of this production. The acting from the get-go is superb - starting with actor Dominic McChesney - in nuance, poignancy and energy; the entire cast brings a synergy to the show that you can feel - and you can tell the depth of their work. I laughed, cried and my heart was deeply touched. Matt Steven's tender and poignant performance about his "Mary's cuddles" was Tony nomination mate... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



JEAN HIMMELSTEIN says "loved it" · June 29, 2013

Superb production. It was hotter than hell in the theatre, but we just could not leave because it was so wonderful. Not much more I can say without spoiling something for someone. Actors/singers were great. Musicians were perfect. Lighting wonderful. I would have made the mics hotter on some of the softer spoken actors, but I could hear them anyway. Did have trouble with the words to the most of the songs. Couldn't understand them. May have had to do with the awkward design of the stage, or the mics again. Some singers were easier to understand than others, particularly the male lead who was outstanding in every way. The director moved them around beautifully and did a pluperfect job with every aspect of this production. Janet M... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



DANIEL FAIGIN says "loved it" · June 30, 2013

I tend to be a completist. For theatre, this means I tend to acquire all cast albums of a particular composing team. In practice, this means that I often jump at the chance to see a show I've only heard. So when I discovered that the Good People Theatre Company was doing a production of Ahrens/Flaherty's A Man of No Importance as part of the Hollywood Fringe Festival, I immediately went out an bought tickets. Well, I bought them for the wrong date, but I quickly got that fixed :-). A Man of No Importance is one of A/F's less frequently produced pieces, perhaps because it doesn't work well in the gigantic Broadway houses. With a book by Terrance McNally, and based on the 1994 movie with Albert Finney, it tells the story of Alfie Byrne in ... full review



JIM WITOSZYNSKI says "loved it" · June 30, 2013

What a wonderful surprise! I didn't know anything about this show before I came to see it and it is just a delight! This show has an outstanding ensemble cast with a wonderful live band of "pub" musicians. The whole show pulls you into the story of Alfie Byrne, a bus conductor in Dublin, Ireland who lives by directing plays at his local church. As the story progresses you learn about Alfie's family, friends and fellow workers while Alfie struggles with his faith and discovers who he is and learns "you just have to love who you love." See this show and you won't be disappointed.... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



PATRICIA ORBAN says "loved it" - June 30, 2013

Amazing!!! So very proud of Janet Miller and her cast and crew! I loved the story and how each character came to life... so happy to have seen this show! Congrats on a fabulous show and here is wishing you many more!... full review

Was this review helpful? yes · no



DIANE FINSTON says "loved it" - June 30, 2013

Amazing. performance. This company must continue on - The director has a vision - and her company gave light to the vision. This talented group - of 15 actors 4 musicians and unknown number of crew members worked seamlessly together - to produce a Broadway quality musical. The time is right, this production needs to head out where others who appreciate the musical in the 21st century can hear it. ... full review