



Marry Me a Little

Reviewed by Neal Weaver
Good People Theatre Company
Through June 28

RECOMMENDED:



This one-act musical, originally conceived and developed by Craig Lucas and Norman Rene, attempts to combine a musical revue format with a plot of sorts, concerning a pair of lonely strangers who don't know each other, though they live in the same building. Each is alone on Saturday night, and each is oblivious of the other.

In Good People Theatre Company's production, smartly directed by Janet Miller with expert musical direction by Corey Hirsch, the two strangers are played by Jessie Withers and David Laffey. And the 18 songs are all rich but lesser known works by Stephen Sondheim, that were cut from his large-scale musicals, including *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Follies*, *Company*, *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*, and *A Little Night Music*, among others. The songs include "Can That Boy Foxtrot," "All Things Bright and Beautiful," "Uptown, Downtown," "Marry Me A Little," "Silly People," "Happily Ever After," and "There Won't Be Trumpets."

Of the three productions of the piece this writer has seen, this one comes closest to finding the right balance between the revue format and the plot strands. By applying a light touch to the proceedings, Miller makes the piece go down easily, and she side-steps the logical problems (How do two people unaware of each other perform duets?) and makes it easier to accept some songs like "Pour Le Sport," which have little relation to the characters.

The two performers have solid voices, stylish delivery, and crisp diction that ensures that we never miss a word of Sondheim's often tricky lyrics.

Good People Theatre Company at The Lillian Theatre, 1076 Lillian Way, Hlywd.; through June 28. www.hff15.org/2234