

HTM Webmaster

From: Announce@htmlplayers.com
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Subject: [Announce] Life Goes On - Cue Review

***** CUE REVIEW *** CUE REVIEW *** CUE REVIEW *****

LIFE GOES ON by James E. Ragan

Directed by Jill Croft

Reviewed by Joel Karpoff

This production is listed as The New York State debut of this play. In fact the author has never seen it performed. He will see it for the first time the weekend of Nov. 12 & 13th, 2004. He won't be disappointed by this production. The plot to quote from the program "a soon to be dead judge and an insurance policy that has not yet matured. What a dilemma! Ah, but there is a solution, a rather unusual one to say the least" And that solution is what makes this production so funny.

I will say though that the first two scenes of the first act are rather wordy and slow. (The pace could have been picked up) It certainly comes to life in the third scene of the first act with the appearance of David Kugler as Melvin a bumbling Barney Fife character straight out of Mayberry. His characterization is right on the money. Judge George Smith played by Mike Misch was hysterical in an almost non speaking role. And when Melvin physically manipulates him...well it has to be seen to be believed. This show has a great many supporting players too numerous to mention. I do feel that some of the roles could have been eliminated.

Daniel Z. Silverstein's entrance as Mayor Bradford was worth the wait. He doesn't come on until late in the second act. While it is a small role he takes it to bigger heights. Other stand out performances were given by Pearl Johnson, Susan Bond and Denise Brown. Director, Jill Croft manages with great expertise to have a multi level set. By using the stage and the floor level of the theatre we went from the Judge's well appointed living room to the Judge's chambers without a hitch.

Only two more performances folks—try to see it. Who knows on the night you go you might meet the author. The show continues on November 12 and 13 at 8pm.

Performances are held at the Buchanan Methodist Church, 275 Church Street in Buchanan. For more information or tickets, call 914734-4336