

Gay Theatre Review

The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode

review by Rosemary Stevens

Naughty, naughty, naughty! From the deliciously twisted mind of playwright Jamie Morris comes *The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode*. Morris has turned an innocent teen sitcom into a tongue-in-cheek (and everywhere else, wink, wink) musical spoof. If raunchy, politically incorrect drag is your cup of tea, your cup will runneth over. Big time.

The plot is fairly straight-forward. There have been some budget cuts at the Eastland boarding school where four girls live with their dorm mother, Mrs. Garrett. The headmaster, who has an eye for Mrs. G, as she is called by the girls, plans to tear down the dorm and replace it with a new administrative building for himself. Mrs. G's job would be eliminated and the girls sent to another dorm. If the girls can raise enough money in two weeks to have the new building, um, erected on another site, they can keep on living with Mrs. G. So they turn their dorm into a house of prostitution and soon the steady stream of johns is filling their, er, coffers. With money. Their song and dance number about their new-found money raising venture is over-the-top funny.

While the show is overflowing with references to all manner of sex, dildos, oral sex, camel toes, masturbation and more sex, the most amazing aspect is the characterizations by the five male actors. With wonderful costuming and wigs, they are completely transformed and add the physicalities that made each of the girls unique. They are all amazingly spot-on.

Playwright Jamie Morris plays Mrs. Garrett to a T with the rolling eyes, woozy walk and that voice that rides up and down scales like a roller coaster. Brooks Braselman is Natalie, the pudgy girl whose whole body shakes up and down when she laughs at the frequent put-downs the other girls direct at her.



L-R: Brooks Braselman, Kelly Mantle, and Jamie Morris in *The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode*. (photo: Tom Whitman)

Darren Gibson is Tootie, who roller-skates in and out, blowing bubble gum bubbles. His full split at the end of the dance number raised a round of cheers from the audience. Joey Pate plays the tough-girl Jo, who slouches around in overalls, and has an unconscious desire for Blair, which is finally fulfilled. Kelly Mantle is the rich girl Blair, who vainly tosses and strokes her flowing tresses.

Director and choreographer Christopher Kenney has a wicked eye for comedy and keeps the high kinetic energy racing. The fabulous wigs are by James "Cool" Bensen. Michael Lee Scott is the scenic designer with attention to detail. Check out the old album covers on the dorm wall.

The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode, by Jamie Morris, produced by Joe Everett Michael and Tom Whitman. Macha Theatre, 1107 N. Kings Road, WeHo. Thur.-Sat. 8pm; Sun. 7pm. Ends Dec. 14. \$30. Res. (323) 960-4424 or online at www.plays411.com/facts.



CG Financial Services
The Right Financial Advice

P.O. Box 32189
Los Angeles, CA 90032

323.222.4622 Office
323.270.6074 Cell

Carol@CarolGrosvenor.com
www.CarolGrosvenor.com

California Insurance License 0D23928

Carol A. Grosvenor, CFP®
Financial Advisor



Betty Miller-Henderson
Tax Service

Licensed & Bonded

Income Tax Preparation for Individuals & Sole Proprietors

Mobile Notary & Certified Signing Agent

Serving The Community Since 1986

PHONE: (626) 399-3695

email: betty@bonniehenderson.net