

## **Mirandolina: A Love Story** **Like No Other**

Love can cause people to do crazy things. On February 4, 2009, I was privileged to see this in action in the play Mirandolina at the Stiemke Theater of the Milwaukee Rep. This is a story of four men who are in love with the same woman and the things they will endure to win her.

In the story of Mirandolina, an innkeeper, Mirandolina (Deborah Staples), has men always falling in love with her. The Count of Albafiorita (Steve Pickering), a wealthy man with a purchased title, tries to buy her love with gifts. The Marquis of Forlipopoli (Torrey Hanson), a man who has lost all his money but has a title, tries to impress her with his status. Fabrizio (Gerard Neugent), Mirandolina's servant at the inn, assumes he and Mirandolina are going to be married. The Knight of Rippafratta (Brian Vaughn), who has some wealth and somewhat of a title, is the target of Mirandolina's seduction.

The playwright, Carlo Goldoni, was born in Venice, Italy, in 1707. Even though the play is originally set in the 1700's, the Stiemke Theater's production is set in the 1930's, making it a little easier to relate to the characters and the things that they go through. This also gave the characters a chance to work with the costumes. The Marquis of Forlipopoli had clothing that was old and worn, which fit him because he had no money to buy new and expensive clothing. The Count of Albafiorita had very expensive

clothing, but it did not match very well, as if he could afford to buy the clothes, but did not know how to wear them. The Knight of Rippafratta had very dignified clothes which gave him a very important feel. Mirandolina, Fabrizio, and the Knight's servant (Jordan Laroya) all had clothes that were simple and easy to work in, as they were serving people.

The set was different. Having sheets hanging from the sides gave the set a plain but interesting look. It was supposed to be an inn, and having sheets around made it seem that way because Mirandolina must do a lot of laundry for her guests. The light and sound design were excellent. The light was perfect for every scene and would also add suspense, tragedy, or laughter by dimming and brightening when it was serious or when it was comical. The music was great and really set the story to a certain place. The music set the mood. For example, when the moment was serious, the music would become serious and slower.

The actors were absolutely amazing. Everyone did a wonderful job portraying his or her character. I especially liked Brian Vaughn, who played the Knight of Rippafratta, and Torrey Hanson, who played the Marquis of Forlipopoli. They gave the characters something to like and something to look forward to in every scene.

I would recommend this play to anyone who enjoys a good love story and a good laugh. It is a play that everyone can enjoy and find something to laugh about.

Mirandolina is a love story like no other.