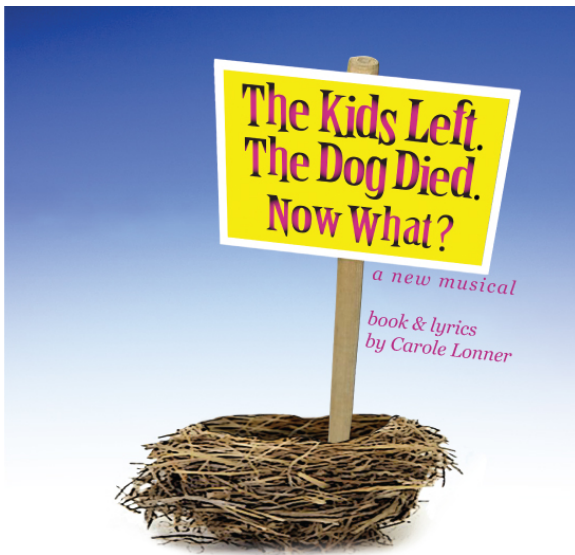


"The Kids Left, the Dog Died, Now What?" □ □ □ □ Society Hill Playhouse □ □ □ □ Oct. 14-Nov. 22



Sometimes it is fun to just go to a theater and be entertained without having to worry whether you got the deeper meaning or the highly symbolic intentions of the author. Carole Lonner's production entitled "The Kids Left, the Dog Died, Now What" is just plain fun. Its target audience is clear and those of us who are empty nesters know exactly what she is talking about.

"Kids" takes a look at several humorous topics that confront the "baby boomer" generation. The song "Who Says Progress is Good" sets the tone for this fun look at growing old. It is a clever perspective of the hazards of modern technology for those of us who struggle to program our VCR or understand all the complexities of our cell phone.

Corban Abernathy plays multiple roles in this show, as do Amy Walton, Gerri Weagraff, and Paul Weagraff. Abernathy is at his best when he sings a catchy and humorous tune entitled "Doctors," shedding some light on the medical issues that come with aging.

"Kids" covers such topics as the temptations of infidelity, computer dating, and cosmetic surgery. One of the highlights of the show is a song about that unexpected letter that magically appears when you turn 50. "AARP" is a clever little ditty that hits home for those of us who have gotten that little punch in the stomach when we went to the mailbox after hitting the half-century milestone.

The Society Hill Playhouse is a wonderful place to see a show. Its position in the Philadelphia theater scene is well-documented. Owner Deen Kogan was recently honored by the Theatre Alliance of Philadelphia for her wonderful achievements these past 50 years and for good reason. It is hallowed ground.

Be forewarned, this historic theater is located on the second floor and there is no elevator. Hence, it is NOT handicap accessible. However, for those who can make it up the stairs, it is well worth the journey.

Kudos to Rick Belzer for a well-conceived lighting design. After working on the Broadway hit "Burn the Floor," Belzer returns to Philadelphia to shine his light on this delightful show.

So, empty nesters, check out "The Kids Left, the Dog Died, Now What." No need for a babysitter, no need for someone to stop by to let your dog out...you are finally free to just go out on the town and enjoy a chance to laugh at yourself.