



IRNE Awards

12 hrs ·

Boston & Beyond's Susan Mulford reviews Stoneham's "Jonah and the Whale"

This is a whale of a tale where, although the protagonist is named Johah, he is not swallowed by a whale nor runs away from an assignment from God. So if you are looking for a biblical reenactment the show may be a bit of a disappointment. But, if you are looking for good, soulful entertainment with a symbolic vent, then this original bluegrass/folk musical featuring a cast of some of Boston's finest and favorite performers should be experienced.

The Stoneham Theatre presents the east coast premiere of this musical fable. Jonah, brilliantly performed by the multi talented Taavon Gamble, is a happily married plumber with a loving wife, Susan, played by Sarah Elizabeth Pothier. They live in a simple but wholesome and happy town where religion binds everyone together. But when Susan dies in childbirth, Jonah is emotionally swallowed up by the pain and flees from God, his infant son and his town of loving and supportive friends.

Susan's spirit intermittently accompanies Jonah along his journey of faith, loss, temptation and survival against seemingly unbeatable odds. He meets folks from all walks of life including a tent revival preacher played by Christopher Chew whose vocals rocked the rafters...as well as a feisty female riverboat Captain energetically performed by Kathy St. George. The aforementioned performers are joined by a talented ensemble of nine singers and musicians who interchange roles and instruments. Directed by Weylin Symes, the Book is by Tyler Mills with music and lyrics by David Darrow and Blake Thomas, along with Orchestrations by Robert Frost. Katheryn Monthei has created a clever, open-stage, interactive, interchangeable set. Tickets may be obtained at www.stonehamtheatre.org