



NOW. HERE. THIS.: (left to right) Hunter Bell, Jeff Bowen, Susan Blackwell, & Heidi Blickenstaff.

Photo: Carol Rosegg



Theater Review

Now. Here. This.: **The [title of show] team scores again**

NOW. HERE. THIS

Book by Hunter Bell & Susan Blackwell

Music & lyrics by Jeff Bowen

Musical direction by Larry Pressgrove

Directed and choreographed by Michael Berresse

The Vineyard Theatre

108 East 15th Street

(212-353-0303), www.vineyardtheatre.org

By David NouNou

The foursome that brought us the hilarious *[title of show]* has given us another little gem. This one is more biographical in nature, with more intimate and personal situations from their childhood to the present day. Set in a museum, it brings together man's evolution and the intersection of people's lives into the *Now. Here. This.* Everything that leads to living in the "now," being "here" and having "this."

Appreciate it all, because it comes around only once and goes oh-so-quickly. Definitely not frivolous, this is thoughtful entertainment that doles out equal doses of heartfelt humor, humanity, and hindsight. Everything that happened in the past has a way of resurfacing and affecting the present and even the future. The foursome have taken incidents from their past, whether they were good, bad, harmful or pleasurable, and brought them to focus for themselves as well as for the audience. For surely all of us have experienced the same feelings, whether in our adolescence, teens, or adulthood. It is a way to see the similarities in ourselves, have a chuckle at our foibles, and hopefully have grown from the past.

Starting with the book by Hunter Bell and Susan Blackwell, it is sincere and genuine, freely structured but ultimately the lines do intersect. The score by Jeff Bowen is rhythmic and has an easy feel to it that

makes it a pleasure to listen to. The direction by Michael Berresse is smooth and easygoing to best serve the piece. Being at the Vineyard is a perfect venue for this piece.

The show is a delicate flower, which blooms for a little more than an hour, but could wither and die in a larger venue. It is not for the masses, but for the discerning few who enjoy seeing something that in which they can see themselves.

The cast is the same foursome that was in *[title of show]*, playing themselves. For who can play them better than themselves? They are Hunter Bell, Susan Blackwell, Heidi Blickenstaff, and Jeff Bowen. Their genuine chemistry and friendship is real. The intersections of their lives have brought them *Now. Here. This.*

Edited by Scott Harrah

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