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Playhouse Tulsa's Triumphant Love Song

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Love Song

Rating: ★★★★★

The Playhouse Tulsa's production of *Love Song*, by John Kolvenbach, currently running at the [Tulsa Performing Arts Center](#), could give cause for despair. Midway through February, with almost a whole year of theatre going ahead, one seriously has to ask if there will be a more enjoyable and entertaining production to be found again this year. The Playhouse Tulsa have set the bar incredibly high for 2011 with their must see production of Kolvenbach's Oliver nominated comedy *Love Song*, that takes a quirky and humorous look at the nature of love and loneliness.

Kolvenbach's *Love Song* loosely revolves around Beane, a reclusive eccentric as uncomfortable around people as they are around him. Into his life enters Molly, a burglar who apparently robs him one night and with whom he begins a love affair. Running parallel to this, and forming the central action of the play, is the relationship between Joan, Beane's sister, and her husband Harry. As the action unfolds their marriage undergoes change as their relationship with Beane forces them to confront certain truths about Beane, themselves and each other in hilarious fashion and with touching and heartfelt consequences for all.

Courtney Sanders directs proceedings with incredible deftness and assurance, creating genuine intimacy onstage, not always easy to achieve in the vast stage space of the Liddy Doenges Theatre. Seth Harman as Beane, a not instantly likeable character, draws the audience in more and more with a performance that highlights the characters heart breaking vulnerability and loneliness. Brittany Wilson as Molly, Beane's love interest, brings a graceful physicality to her performance that wonderfully conveys both her unusual love of Beane and his unusual love for her. A beautifully choreographed sequence of movements between Harman and Wilson highlights the intimacy between their characters, revealing Sanders as a director who understands not only how to get the best from the script and cast, but who intimately understands the theatricality and physicality of performance.

In one of the best casting decisions of the year, Jenny Guy as Joan, Beane's uptight but loving sister gives a master class performance that is utterly convincing, incredibly engaging and absolutely hilarious. Tony Schneider as Joan's devoted, but occasionally perplexed husband Harry, is equally hilarious, adeptly delivering both intensity and understatement in a likewise incredible

performance. Together they create moments of sheer theatrical joy with their Hooky Day scene well worth the price of admission alone.

Those in need of an uplifting antidote to the recent bad weather could do no better than to make their way to the Tulsa Performing Arts Centre and enjoy *Love Song*. For those who missed Thursday nights cancelled performance, it can only be hoped this production is brought back for a well-deserved extended run. But play it safe. Go see *Love Song* now. You don't want to miss this.

Love Song runs at the Liddy Doenges Theatre in the Tulsa Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 12th and at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday, February 13th.

Tickets: \$22-\$25



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