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Balls Out

Lord Leebrick's Hedwig rocks gender, lust and love

In *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, a performer tells of her journey from East German boy to American woman and adds in bits about talent, identity and loss along the way. The arts editors' conversation after seeing *Hedwig* on opening night follows.

SS: Whoa.

MT: Yes. Wow.

SS: There was more narrative in the movie. Adam Goldthwaite (who plays Hedwig and Tommy Gnosis) was amazing, but I couldn't believe it was over when it was over!

MT: I haven't seen the movie, but the play does rocket along.

SS: I thought The Ovulators did a good job, and their bassist, Dori Prange, who played Yitzhak, was great.

MT: Prange was fantastic, and it was a welcome surprise for me to discover how big her part was. I almost felt like I should be watching the show at Sam Bond's with all these Eugene music scene faces.

SS: I don't know much about Adam Goldthwaite.

MT: He's part of the band Ordinary Flies and played Frank N. Furter in ACE's *The Rocky Horror Show* production in 2005. He's Eugene theater's Sexually Ambiguous Man, the sort of hot that just about everyone can appreciate, no matter their orientation (if they like manhotness).

SS: I appreciated his talent. He sang like 15 different genres of song. All within the rock/pop arena, but still.

MT: Well yes, that too.

SS: What did you think of the lighting design? I liked it except for the part where someone with epilepsy would have had a seizure.

MT: I liked the footlights, and I thought the strobe-lit part was very effective. In terms of design, I liked the slide projection with the nifty little drawings, which were helpful for keeping track of the narrative when you might otherwise be distracted by the sheer entertainment factor.

SS: They added a lot of humor and depth. Costumes: I thought that first wig was horrifying! And then I really liked the costume change for Prange. While you were terrified of Goldthwaite's costume change ...

MT: I just wondered how much was coming



Hedwig (Adam Goldthwaite) sings the blues

off! But I was excited to see Prange change. The drag was so effective at first that I wasn't convinced it was she until she started singing – then I knew that voice from her standout turns at the Fast Computers' annual Christmas shows.

SS: I wonder what the differences are between this and the 2004 ACE Annex version.

MT: This version is streamlined, I think, making use of Goldthwaite's ability to completely shift his voice and bearing to indicate Tommy's parts – which I thought worked incredibly well; it was as if Tommy was there but also as if Hedwig was just narrating the story through one long night.

SS: Who should go see this show?

MT: Part of the beauty of *Hedwig* is its crossover appeal – and I mean that on about three different levels. It's emotional and playful and affecting all 'round.

SS: If Mommy and Daddy won't let you read Scary Mr. Dan Savage for fear you might learn about gender and sexual differences, you probably need to see *Hedwig*.

MT: Ha! But we *could* write the review and only talk about Goldthwaite, who ought to win some sort of Eugene Oscar for his balls-out, fearless performance. **EW**

Hedwig continues at the Lord Leebrick Feb. 15-17 & 22-24 and March 1-3. Go to www.lordleebrick.com or call 465-1506 for tickets. \$12-\$17.

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