

THE POST★STAR

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Booming energy and talent

By **BOB ROSE**
Special to The Post-Star

GLENS FALLS

Jonathan Larson's "Tick... Tick...BOOM!" is a truly exciting show. A pop rock autobiographical work by the creator of "Rent," it focuses on Larson's own aspirations and fears relating to both his professional and personal lives.

Portraying Jon, aspiring composer, is talented actor and singer Colin Hanlon who immediately establishes complete rapport with the audience and holds it right beyond the final moment of this fast-moving theatrical gem.

Agonizing over having approached his 30th birthday in 1990 without having attained theatrical success, he pours

REVIEW

IF YOU GO

Adirondack Theatre Festival will repeat "Tick...Tick...BOOM!" through July 28 with performances nightly at 8 p.m. at the Charles R. Wood Theater. Tickets are \$28. Call 798-7479.

out his soul to us in "30/90"; the show's opening number.

The multi-talented Hanlon possesses more energy than I ever have seen in one person.

Soon we meet his girlfriend, Susan, a dancer who supports herself by teaching ballet to "wealthy and untalented children."

She is most admirably played by Sarah Glendening. Again, we are treated to a fine singer as well as an alluring actress.

For her first number with Jon, Susan is wearing a green dress, giving rise to their duet, "Green, Green Dress."

We learn that while Jon feels he must remain in New York City if he is ever to succeed in his chosen profession, Susan yearns to leave the city, find a life elsewhere and raise a family.

Finally, we meet Michael, Jon's friend from childhood, who is now near success in the world of marketing, where he wishes Jon would join him. Michael is most convincingly portrayed by Ryan Duncan.

The three join voices in "Johnny Can't Decide," a very moving song that very well states Jon's predicament as far as his future is concerned.

Through a combination of soliloquies and songs, the story unfolds in truly touching as

well as often amusing manner. We see Jon at work in a SoHo diner where he earns enough to pay for his shabby flat and other basic essentials of his drab lifestyle.

We hold our breath with him as he awaits the outcome of a workshop introducing his first finished work, called "SUPERBIA," to an audience, among whom he hopes to find a backer.

Suffice it to say that Jon finds enough reason to celebrate his 30th birthday with a ray of hope and to rededicate himself to his search for success in his chosen field.

Hence, we come to appreciate the meaning behind the show's final number pointing out that actions "Speak Louder Than Words."

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Production backed by talented band

◆ PRODUCTION

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Throughout the story, Duncan and Glendening briefly portray other characters, always with amazing dexterity and very quick costume, voice and manner changes.

The show, as staged under the direction of Gabriel Barre,

is backed by a wonderfully talented band, led by Gary Adler, pianist and keyboardist, and including Dan Devine on guitar, Chris Reed on drums and Greg Verheyn on bass.

The sound from this sterling band is perfect and appropriate every moment.

The unique scenic design by David Esker is brilliantly

conceived to add excitement. Lighting, sound and projection designs, the work of Jason Kantrowitz, Matt O'Hare and Jill BC DuBoff, and Dustin O'Neill, respectively, all contribute to the overall finesse of this amazing production, as do Isabel Rubio's appropriate costumes.

Larson originally wrote

"Tick...Tick...BOOM!" as a one-man show, but music and script were later revised by Stephen Oremus and David Auburn into the version we now see.

It's a wonderful piece of theater and a glorious way for David Turner and Martha Banta to make their exit from ATF.