



The Post-Star, Glens Falls, N.Y.

ENTERTAINMENT

# ATF opens brilliantly with fantasy show

By **BOB ROSE**

*Special to The Post-Star*

GLENS FALLS ♦ Jeremy Desmond's musical comedy, "The Girl in the Frame," now playing at Charles R. Wood Theater, is absolutely fantastic in so many ways.

Directed by Thomas Caruso with musical leadership by Jana Zielonka, it begins brightly, moves

## REVIEW

rapidly, and entertains thoroughly.

Alex, played by Todd Cerveris, and Laney, played by Stephanie Kurtzuba, are celebrating the fourth anniversary of their engagement. Both are reluctant to commit further, although both obviously would like to.

As their story continues, it becomes clear they are measuring the real against the ideal.

## IF YOU GO

"The Girl in the Frame" will be repeated by Adirondack Theatre Festival through July 2 at Charles R. Wood Theater. Performances are at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Tickets cost \$25. Call 798-9663.

Each seeks the perfect mate but their eyes are closed to the possibility they may have already reached their goals.

At a dinner, they give each other the same gift, a framed picture of the same girl dressed in the same flowing white sundress and wearing the same flower in her hair. That is a hint they think alike, but they miss the point.

Oddly, the girl in the picture comes to life, and that's when the real fun begins. She is Evelyn, played by Vicki Van Tassel, and she turns out to be Alex's ideal mate. But she is only a fantasy.

Meanwhile, Laney's fantasy quite literally bursts onto the scene. Thomas, or Tomas, played by Victor Wallace, is a well-built fireman and, later, a hunky prince charming in a tuxedo.

Further complications arise. It seems that fantasies have their own fantasies.

As the four characters strive for a conclusion, a tricky situation becomes extremely comical — awash with clever lyrics, perky script and some delightful singing and dancing.

We are reminded that "every relationship needs a little fantasy" and that our search for an ideal mate may be more easily

resolved than we imagine. It's a wonderful show, brimming with wild antics imaginatively performed by all four stars.

Hearts will melt when Wallace and Van Tassel, the two fantasies, sing about their problems. Their "What Can You Do?" is the best song in the show. But Kurtzuba's "Man of Your Dreams" is beautiful in both thought and melody. Not a number falls flat — all are engaging.

Orchestration is by Bernie Anderson. And the accomplished band includes two well-known local musicians, Michael Caselli and James Cirillo. What a wonderful sound!

"The Girl in the Frame" majestically opens ATF's 11th season. See it and find out what we can learn from our fantasies. It will surprise you in many ways.

And what an adorable time you will have.