

# Feeling wonder, and wondering why

By **BOB ROSE**

*Special to The Post-Star*

**GLENS FALLS** ♦ It's easy to see why "Madagascar" brought J.T. Rogers the coveted Pinter Prize, among other awards.

Now playing at the Charles R. Wood Theater, it is an engrossing play. Beautifully written and impeccably acted, it raises a host of questions, some of which the viewer must answer for himself.

That's one of the biggest attractions in this engrossing drama. You leave it with as many questions as solutions and it stays in your mind like an unresolved puzzle. As dramatic

## REVIEW

as it is, it ends up being an intriguing mystery that continues to haunt you as, like the characters in the play, you search for explanations.

Why do people disappear? Why do people make the choices they do? Where does guilt enter our lives? What causes people to endanger their reputations and their lives even, at times, to the point of suicide? Unlike most modern scripts, "Madagascar" doesn't seem to give all the answers before the curtain closes.

Essentially, this play shows us a family falling apart and then the individuals destroying



"Madagascar" will run through July 30, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

themselves. The question is why. Another is how does all this affect others.

Rogers has his characters speak with honesty and often with wry humor. There are as many laughs in this absorbing play as are found in some straight comedies.

In this appealing production everything rings true thanks to the admirable, and I might say, awesome interpretation of

their roles consistently given by Sherri Parker Lee, May Beth Peil, and Larry Pine.

A socialite mother; her daughter, now a tour guide in Rome; and the mother's lover are the people we see and hear. A key to understanding the play is to note carefully that each of these characters is in the same hotel room but at different times and for different reasons.

## IF YOU GO

"Madagascar" will run at the Charles R. Wood Theater through July 30 with performances at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays. Tickets are \$25. Call 798-9663.

The mother, Lillian, speaks from five years ago while her daughter, June, speaks from just a few days ago. The mother's lover, Nathan, is in the present. Noting the playwright's use of time is essential to any understanding of what has occurred and what is occurring at the moment.

Constant references are made to Lillian's husband and, especially, to their missing son, whom the sister calls Paul and the mother calls Gideon.

Despite what some may see as the overwhelming complexity of plot, our attention never wavers, a credit both to the playwright's skill and to the cast's ability to attract and hold our attention. Director Gus Reyes has done a great job of putting it together, I'm sure not an easy task.

"Madagascar" is truly a wonderful stage experience and merits every accolade it already has received.

*Professional summer theater in Glens Falls!*

*Tickets: 798-WOOD (9663) • www.ATFestival.org*