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BESTBETS

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"Mimi Le Duck"

Tonight at 8 is the the Adirondack Theater Festival puts on "Mimi Le Duck" in the Charles R. Wood Theater, 207 Glen St., Glens Falls. Call 798-7479.

'Mimi Le Duck' instigates laughter

By **BOB ROSE**

Special to *The Post-Star*

GLENS FALLS ♦ For an exciting love story played with broad humor, you can't beat "Mimi Le Duck" in its world premiere at the Charles R. Wood Theater. Music, reminiscent of that from "Little Shop of Horrors," is by Brian Feinstein and blends so very well with Diana Hansen-Young's book and lyrics.

This musical comedy is a bit complicated simply because

REVIEW

each of the main characters has an ax to grind. Three couples are in love with each other but also are dazzled by their secret yearnings as they grapple with mid-life crises.

The best example, of course, is Annie Golden's Miriam, who paints ducks for QVC, is married to Peter, loves him dearly, but seeks a new means of self-

IF YOU GO

The Adirondack Theatre Festival will repeat "Mimi Le Duck" at the Charles R. Wood Theater on Glen Street tonight and Wednesday through July 31 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23 and can be purchased by calling 798-7479.

expression. Leaving Peter, she travels to Paris to live the bohemian life where she becomes Mimi, an attractive dancing waitress.

Peter pursues her abroad and their relationship takes on new meaning to say the least. Both are practicing Mormons back home, but their new lives lead them down a different path.

Another couple, an accordion-playing pickpocket known as Gypsy and a clay modeler,

although attracted to each other, have their differences that threaten their relationship, whatever it might be. Louis Trucci and Kristine Zbornik play these roles most humorously.

As the second act opens, Tucci wanders into the audience to sing "Welcome Home" after reminding everyone he is, at heart, a wallet seeker. More than one gentleman could be seen checking his pocket as Tucci retreated back onto the stage.

Claude, a cook specializing in shucking oysters, longs to become a female detective a la Miss Marple. As played by Robert Dusold, he makes his cross-dressing routine a scream.

And then we have Nada Rowand's Madame Vallet, a truth-stretching landlady, who attempts to conceal her aging beauty despite the obvious attraction an elderly gentleman,

portrayed with much dignity by Donald Grody, has toward her.

All soon learn that searching for one's true identity and achieving one's dreams takes courage, resolve, and most definitely a bit of insanity.

Meanwhile they entertain us with a delightful collection of songs, including "Work, Suffer and Die," "Is There Room?" and "The Only Time We Have is Now" followed later by "Autumn Leaves Falling."

And one cannot forget the ghost of Ernest Hemingway who proves to be Mimi's inspiring spirit. Played by Allen Fitzpatrick, Ernest sings too when he isn't jotting down notes to be used apparently in his next novel.

Put all these free-wheeling characters together in Paris with fine music and nonstop humor and you have a perfect recipe for one heck of a good time. Ernest wouldn't have said "heck."