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# There's no need to say how great ATF play is

By **BOB ROSE**

*Special to The Post-Star*

**GLENS FALLS** ♦ The Adirondack Theatre Festival's "It Goes Without Saying" is a simply fabulous show. Written and performed by Bill Bowers, it traces his development as a mime from his Montana childhood to the present. The opening night audience gave him a much-deserved standing ovation at the end of a most entertaining evening.

## REVIEW

His hilarious experiences included finding his grandmother's teeth on the kitchen floor the

night she speechlessly clutched her chest, reeled from cupboard to tabletop and dropped on it dead. This is all acted out by Bowers as he relates the tale. And then there was the time he discovered Barbie dolls, fell in love with them and, upon his mother's discovery of his secret passion, became the sole owner of a fleet of Tonka trucks.

With only a moment's hesitation, Bowers decided his horde of beautiful Barbies could now be motorized. This dauntless gay spirit continued to flourish through many hilarious activities until the great day when he discovered the drama club at school — which he refers to as Gay Head Start.

After displaying his creative talents as a salad bar attendant, he hit a kind of big time in commercial advertising where he appeared everywhere imaginable as a costumed Buckle Up Guy, Slim Goodbody, and a

Holiday Tree. His garb always included tights, another passion in his life.

With infectious enthusiasm, Bowers sends an audience into gales of laughter with his fantastic stories and his even more fantastic mime scenes to illustrate a point or a milestone in his career. Easily and vivaciously, he regales the audience with his amusing tales of world travels and professional relationships.

These are tempered by brief accounts of sadder moments, such as friends and a partner dying of AIDS. But the overall emotion is one of joy and humor as a man reaches for the moon and finds it seeming to glow just for him.

Bowers learned early from members of his family the importance of silence and how it can often be more expressive than words. He also learned from his family that not everyone accepts a person's being gay. But, more important, he learned that when one accepts himself for what he is and works from there, it is not difficult to find success and acceptance from others.

The overall impact of the solo performance is one of almost relentless humor delivered with amazing talent. Bowers is being directed in this fantastic evening of entertainment by Martha Banta, who says the play is still in its developmental stage. But it surely looked like a finished product to me. And apparently the well-satisfied audience stood in agreement. It goes without saying, that I think you'll love it.