

Highly Recommended \*\*\*\*\*

We have all heard the adage "fine wines become finer with age". Is it possible that plays can do the same? I think that in order to do so, the writer would have to go back to the "drawing board" and recreate what they started out to do. This can take place when the writer matures and starts to see life from a different angle. I for one found the new production more stimulating and a better story-telling experience.

The book was written by Buddy Farmer with the music by Michael Mahler, who also wrote many of the lyrics along with David H. Bell, who directed and choreographed the stunning production now on stage at Northwestern University's Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts in Evanston.

While the story concentrates on sports, there is, in this new version, more about the man and his family, making it a better story to tell. It is the struggle between career and family ( it could be any field, not only football).

The musical numbers led by Matthew Burgess are a major part of the story telling process and some even stand out as songs that could stand alone. "Easy Come, Easy Go" and "I Never Saw It Coming" are songs that show up several times and "Due Diligence" that ends the first act is a strong look at the paths seen by three major players. "There's Something In The Game" ( the title song) is also another repeated tune as are "All American" and one of the most chilling songs is "Ordinary Heroes" handled by Tovar and Aguilar ( you might need a tissue or two for this one).

Alan Breslov

"Around The Town In Chicago"