

The show -- rather sexless in an interesting way - feels as modern as ever, despite silly concerns about songs like "A Secretary is Not A Toy." Looking out for yourself, seeing a company as a stepping stone rather than a home, seeing your coworkers as competitors instead of friends, being so focused on career you don't even bother with a personal life -- sounds familiar, doesn't it?

It helps when the tale of a window washer rushing up the ladder of success is filled with fun numbers like 'Coffee Break" and "Rosemary" (in which our hero unexpectedly discovers romance, only to soon put it aside while he leaps ever higher).



Striking Distance Of Obama 🚮 Like 🚽 1K



Shelterpop: Unplugging Appliances: Do I REALLY Have to Do This? Ef Like - 1K



Requirements f Like - 1K What To Do About Smelly

Angelina's Strict Nanny

Popeater: Brad and



Feet **I** Like 670



Noam Chomsky Is the World Too Big to Fail? The Contours of Global Order Like - 3K



AOL Real Estate: Prince William and Kate to Live in Royal Mansion **I** Like **56** 



TV Squad: Maria Menounos Relives Her Paparazzi 'Wardrobe Malfunction' on 'Lopez' (VIDEO) **I** Like **52** 

#### DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS **1** of 5 **▶**



Sam Waterston Saving Easter Island's Marine Ecosystems



David O. Russell FDR Said it All in 1936 -- Who Will Follow in His Steps Today?





http://j.mp/dEZjCM via @huffingtonpost



twsuccess Antoine Dodson Arrested For Marijuana Possession http://huff.to/edLalo

Radcliffe's Broadway debut was in Equus, in which he showed a certain amount of stage presence despite being cast as a rough, country lad, a role he most certainly was not suited for. He's grown tremendously here and owns the stage rather charmingly, right down to mouthing "cheers" during his curtain call.

Two other crucial roles don't score highly. Rose Hemingway is okay as the secretary who loves him and longs to keep his dinner warm (in New Rochelle!), but certainly doesn't put her stamp on the role or ever get beyond a vague niceness. Worse, the main foil for Finch is supposed to be the boss's nephew, Bud Frump. He's the corporate climber we're supposed to dislike -- our hero gets by on his wits and sucking up (cleverly) while Bud just complains to his mother, who is the sister of his boss's wife. But Christopher J. Hanke fails to nail almost any of the humor in his part. He's a handsome fellow but his voice is so-so and his delivery poor. Lines that should kill just sort of peter out, though he has a good physical command of his body and does well in the dancing.

The other key roles are much better. Emmy winner John Larroquette makes his Broadway debut in solid form as the boss, J.B. Biggley. Without overplaying it, he milks every laugh out of every line he's given. Director and choreographer Rob Ashford even makes smart use of Larroquete's height compared to Radcliffe in the rousing Act One tune "Grand Old Ivy." His mistress is played by Tammy Blanchard, who also shows wise restraint in a part that can be pure caricature. Their romantic number together -- "Love From A Heart Of Gold" -- gets by purely on the chemistry of the two. As a bonus of sorts, Larroquette's voice is so modest it makes even Radcliffe's singing seem robust.

MIchael Park (who was exceptional in this season's excellent new play Middletown) does strong work as a corporate exec and deserves bigger roles in the future. And Ellen Harvey has a blast as Miss Jones, especially with her warbling on "Brotherhood Of Man" (inserted perhaps to give some vocal spark to the big dance finale in which Radcliffe shined as a hoofer but obviously could not belt out over that chorus).

I keep coming back to the idea that the best actors didn't overplay roles that can be rather broad. Perhaps it has to do with the sleek, Sixties-mod look of the sets by Derek McLane and excellent lighting by Howell Binkley for this How To Succeed. They create a vivid, genuine corporate world, as opposed to what I remember as a more cartoonish feel for the Broderick revival. (Which I also enjoyed.) It has the feel I imagine the new musical Catch Me If You Can will be shooting for.

Ashford's strong staging and choreography are filled with grace notes and clever touches, from the

mailroom clerks passing around packages with their feet to the hilarious "Grand Old Ivy" (in which Radcliffe pantomimes playing football and is carried backwards in slow motion to amusing effect) to that rousing climax "Brotherhood Of Man," in which our hero really delivers on his toes, thanks to very clever moves that show him off to the best possible effect.

And yet, the dancing overall was solid but not spectacular. So how can a show where the male lead isn't really a singer and the female lead didn't wow and the main villain underwhelmed get three stars? Hey, that's the beauty of live theater. A great show delivering on the technical front with panache and boasting one of the more tuneful scores in Broadway history can be a lot of fun, especially with a charismatic lead, powerhouse vocals or not.

And if Radcliffe chooses his next role wisely -- a romantic comedy or flat-out farce, I think -- he will continue to grow as an actor and keep packing them in. Just like *How To Succeed* surely will. And when he steps away from the show (as inevitably he will) and they need to find a replacement, might I suggest Neil Patrick Harris? (You can see Harris in a concert version of *Company* at LIncoln Center April 7-9.)

# THE 2010-2011 THEATER SEASON (ratings on a four star system)

Angels in America revival at Signature \*\*\* out of \*\*\*\* Arcadia with Billy Crudup \*\*\* 1/2 Between Worlds/Entre Mundos \* 1/2 Beautiful Burnout at St. Ann's Warehouse \*\* Blood From A Stone \*\* 1/2 The Broadway Musicals Of 1921 at Town Hall \*\*\* Devil Boys From Beyond \*\* The Diary Of A Madman with Geoffrey Rush at BAM \*\*\* Double Falsehood \*\* The Dream Of The Burning Boy \*\* 1/2 Driving Miss Daisy \*\* Elf \* Elling \*\* A Free Man Of Color \*\* 1/2 Gatz \*\*\* Ghetto Klown \*\*\* Good People with Frances McDormand \*\* The Grand Manner \*\* The Great Game \*\*\* Gruesome Playground Injuries \*\*\* The Hallway Trilogy: Nursing \*\* The Hallway Trilogy: Paraffin \*\*\* The Hallway Trilogy: Rose \*\*\* How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying \*\*\* The Importance Of Being Earnest \*\* 1/2 The Interminable Suicide Of Gregory Church \*\*\* 1/2 John Gabriel Borkman \* 1/2 La Bete \*\* 1/2 Les Miserables \*\*\* Lombardi \*\* Macbeth with John Douglas Thompson \*\* The Merchant Of Venice \*\*\* 1/2 Middletown \*\*\* The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore \* Mistakes Were Made \*\* 1/2 Nixon In China \*\*\* 1/2 The New York Idea \*\* The Nightingale and Other Short Fables at BAM \*\*\* Other Desert Cities \*\* Our Town with Helen Hunt \*\*\* The Pee-wee Herman Show \*\*\* The Road To Qatar \* Room \*\*\* The Scottsboro Boys \*\*\*\* Small Craft Warnings zero stars

HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES







Fast Food





Afghanistan



TPIEC

C/



Brian Williams

Gabrielle Giffords

lle Mexico ds

MORE BIG NEWS PAGES »

# Three Sisters (w Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard) \*\*\* $1\!/\!2$

Timon Of Athens at Public with Richard Thomas \*\*\* The Whipping Man \*\* Wings \*\* Women On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown \*\*

# AT THE NEW YORK MUSICAL FESTIVAL

Blood Ties \*\*\* Fellowship \* 1/2 Fingers and Toes \*\* 1/2 Frog Kiss \*\*\* 1/2 The Great Unknown \*\* 1/2 Nighttime Traffic \*\* Our Country \* PopArt \* Shine! The Horatio Alger Musical \*\* 1/2 Show Choir \*\* Tess: The New Musical \*\* Trav'lin' \*\*\* Without You \*\*\* 1/2

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for reading. Michael Giltz is the cohost of Showbiz Sandbox, a weekly pop culture podcast that reveals the industry take on entertainment news of the day and features top journalists and opinion makers as guests. It's available free on iTunes. Visit Michael Giltz at his website and his daily blog. Download his podcast of celebrity interviews and his radio show, also called Popsurfing and also available for free on iTunes. Link to him on Netflix and gain access to thousands of ratings and reviews.

Note: Michael Giltz was provided with tickets to the show with the understanding that he would be writing a review.

### Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

More in Arts...



'Jeff Koons Must Die!!!' & 4 Other...



Robert De Niro, Brian Williams Square Off...



# Sponsored Links

Mom Is 55, Looks 30... Her clever \$5 wrinkle therapy angers Botox Doctors. Find Out How! FDXNews8.com

#### SHOCKING: Apple iPad for \$24.87

TODAY ONLY: Auction site to give away 1,000 iPads for \$24.87! NewsToday9.com

# **Spinal Stenosis Pain?**

See Where Laser Spine Surgery Began. No Hospitalization! www.bonati.com

# Groupon<sup>™</sup> Official Site

1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. Get 50-90% off your city's best! www.Groupon.com

Comments

Pending Comments

Buy a link here

Post a Comment HuffPost Social News					
Login or connect with:	facebook	More Login Options			
		1.			
To reply to a Comment: Click "Reply comment; after being approved your c underneath the comment you replied Share your Comment:	comment will appear directly	view Comment Post Comment			
F Post to Facebook.	Post to Blogger.				
Post to WordPress.	Post to TypePad.	t Post to Tumblr.			
View All					
☑ Recency   Popularity					
HUFFPOST BLOGGEF Tallulah Morehea 425 Fans	<b>d</b> 07:12 PM on 3/31/2011				
you deem "silly". Nice of you t "silly." "Ellen Harvey has a blast as M	o erase a half century of battling	ted, sexist songs who's offensiveness g for sexual equality with the word warbling on 'Brotherhood Of Man' inale"			
Robert Morse's magnificent, u		ne movie (which preserves forever ss Jones warbling was "inserted" by e number - ALWAYS!			
snake from the reptile house i		y Potter movie, Daniel liberates a Broadway, and, the same week, a ɔt!			
There. That's silly. 50 years of	<sup>r</sup> feminist gains are not.				
New York who could have top	lined in this quintessentially Am	ere was at least one American actor in erican role. (Not one word have you ish accent so utterly, utterly wrong for			
But it is nice to have Loesser's rather than amuses.	s great score being perfomed ag	gain, even if the sexism now grates			
TReply		<u>Permalink</u>   <u>Share i</u>			
HUFFPOST Michael G 78 Fans	BLOGGER iiltz 12:24 AM on 4/01/2011	63			
only experience is wit highlight Miss Jones I					

highlight Miss Jones but didn't have the time or money to check it out -- hence my "perhaps." Thanks for setting me straight. Can you tell me how those songs play in the film? They're so good it's easy to imagine them performed in a winking manner even at the time that subtly acknowledges the behavior of the corporate execs as questionable. Didn't anyone see the lascivious execs as targets at all of satire? Today ,sexual politics just don't come into it for me. It's like objecting to Mad Men because everyone smokes and the men chase the secretaries around the office during holiday parties. Nobody thinks it's acceptable behavior and we're not indulging in fun by watching Mad Men. "Happy To Keep His Dinner Warm" is more complicated for me. Choosing to stay at home and tend to a spouse (and maybe kids) is a perfectly valid choice surely. The most competent employees throughout the show are the secretaries who know everything about what's going on, though there's no sense they deserve or even want better. but I'd be happy to my hubby's dinner warm myself, so don't see it as limiting. I think the songs transcend the era they were written in.

Reply

Permalink | Share it



Tallulah Morehead 07:44 PM on 4/05/2011 425 Fans



"Can you tell me how those songs play in the film?"

HUFFPOST BLOGGER

For Heaven's sake, Netflix the movie and see for yourself. If you haven't seen Robert Morse play this role, you haven't seen this role. You don't even have to wait for the disc. Netflix will stream it right into your computer (I just checked. It will stream). You could be seeing it right now, instead of reading this, and see what was originally intended, since it preserves the Broadway performances of most of the original cast (Sadly, Charles Neslon Reilly does not play Bud Frump in the movie.), and all the Bob Fosse choreography is preserved as well.

Without realizing it, you identified what's still creepy about HAPPY TO KEEP HIS DINNER WARM: "there's no sense they deserve or even want better." That's just it, OF COURSE they WANTED better, OF COURSE they DESERVED better, but not in this show. There is not one female excutive in the show. Most of the women are smarter than the men (But not the boss's sexpot, of course), yet they are content to receive less pay and recognition? No, that was the myth the show never questions. "De slaves, Dey like being slaves. Security! Dem Damn Yankees ruined deir lives by freein' 'em."

Reply

Permalink | Share it

HUFFPOST BLOGGER Michael Giltz 12:29 AM on 4/01/2011 78 Fans



The whole show is so cynical in a charming way. It's cynical about business and corporate politics and who gets ahead and why, I can't imagine why it's hard to think the show is also cynical about the role of women. It's certainly easy to play it that way today. (Not that this one does that as such.) Happily the gains of women, which still have far to go (especially around the world) won't be held back by this show. I should have mentioned that Radcliffe's American accent was smooth and didn't raise an eyebrow, one more point in his favor. Like Broderick, he's no musical comedy star waiting for more big roles, but a valid stage performer, which was more than I imagined after seeing his first three or four turns as harry potter. Absolutely other performers could kill in this revival, hence my mention of Neil Patrick Harris, who is no older than John Stamos was when he took over for Broderick. He'd be sensational in this show. Thanks again for properly correcting my lack of musical theater knowledge on that arrangement.

Reply

Permalink | Share it

garystartswithg 01:02 AM on 4/01/2011 424 Fans



the movie in its entirety is posted in parts on youtube -- i just recently watched it if for no other reason than because I found the new version kind of sloppy. I think Mr Radcliff did a fine job, I had more issues with music production and choreography as a whole. It will sell tickets, so what do I know. .



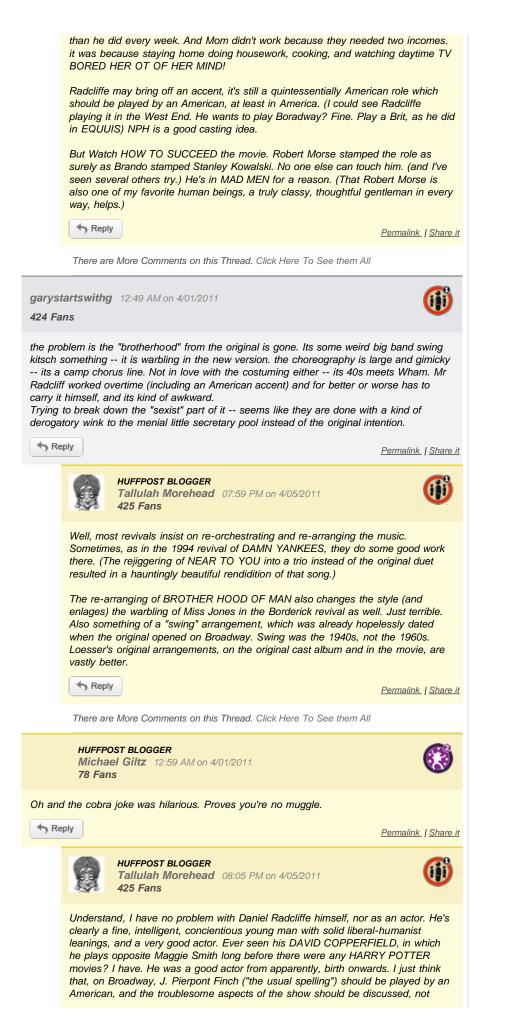
Permalink | Share it

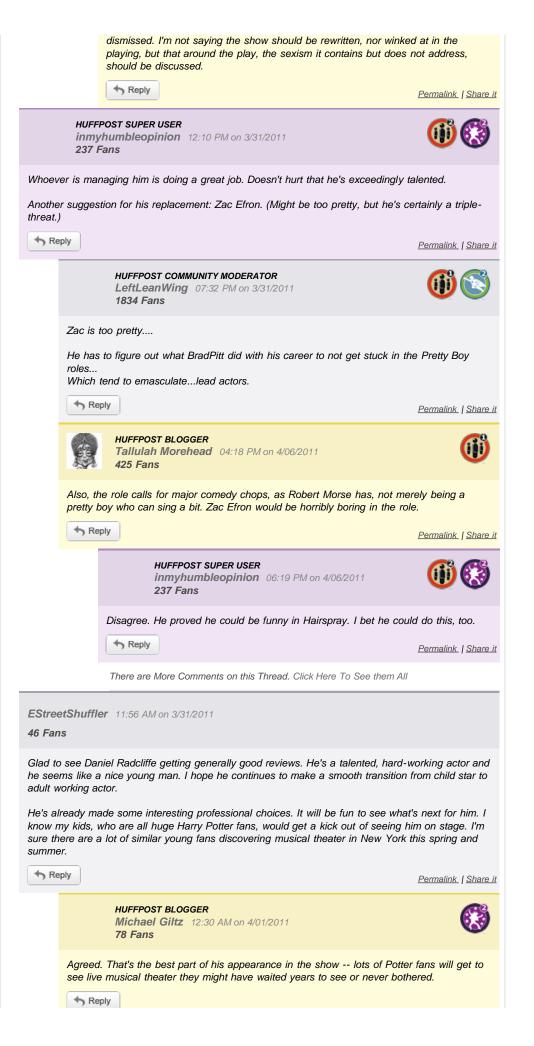


HUFFPOST BLOGGER Tallulah Morehead 07:52 PM on 4/05/2011 425 Fans



But there is no satire in the show to even suggest that the women want a better life or broader choices., let alone equality. I was alive then. The reason we have greater femist roights now is because women back then were NOT happy to keep their dinners warm. In fact, in the household I gew up in in the 1950s and 60s, it was dad who kept the dinner warm, because Mother got home form her job later





× ر ۲	керіу	Permalink.   Share it		
	HUFFPOST BLOGGER Tallulah Morehead 04:19 PM on 4/06/2011 425 Fans			
	But wouldn't it be better if they saw a really good musical product sad approximation of a show that can be done much better when			
	Septy Reply	<u>Permalink.   Share it</u>		
Post a Cor	omment			
Sponsored Links Mom Is 55, Looks 30 Her clever \$5 wrinkle therapy angers Botox Doctors. Find Out How! FDXNews8.com Buy a link here				
SEARCH				
FRONT PC PAGE	OLITICS BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENTMEDIA TECH COMED	Y SPORTS STYLE WORLD FOOD LIV	ING IMPACT EDU LOCAL	
ARTS S	STYLE DESIGN FILM PHOTOGRAPHY AOL MUSIC		Get Alerts	
Advertise   Log In   Make HuffPost your Home Page   RSS   Careers   FAQ   Contact Us User Agreement   Privacy   Comment Policy   About Us   Powered by Movable Type Copyright © 2011 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc.   "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.				