

## • Nite Lights •

• By Pat Taylor •



Wednesday, May 23, 2001

### THE GRAVE WHITE WAY.

Having read a brutally unfavorable review of this play, I almost dreaded my commitment to see it but went anyway. After two delightful hours of seeing and LOVING every moment, I had to wonder... did *that* woman see the same show I did?

Book, music, and brilliant lyrics all written by Joe Patrick Ward, this is a clever, unique, talent-packed musical satire on Broadway musicals.

Five attractive but dead Broadway actors perform an "after life" revue of their collective flop shows for a creative, "Godlike" being in hopes of being accepted into musical heaven. A fabulous, fast-paced, riotous evening of theatre under the snappy direction of Sarah Garfield, the entire cast was OUTSTANDING! Beautiful and awesome singing voices and fresh, upbeat performances by ALL. I couldn't possibly name a favorite!

Set by Gary Wissmann, costumes by Jeannine Campi, lighting by Michael Zinman, and spirited choreography by Kay Cole. Each lent their excellence to this highly-entertaining, priceless parody.

Each night a different stage celebrity pops in to do one song, which for us was the golden-voiced Billy Porter from the cast of "Miss Saigon" and "5 Guys Named Moe." Very funny!

The multi-talented, headed-for-stardom cast includes Craig A. Curtis, Leslie Margherita, Amy Rutberg, Joshua Finkel, Shannon Stoeke, and Joe Patrick Ward (playwright) also handling piano accompaniment.

Running through June 17. For seats/times, call 310-0289-2999. Hudson Backstage Theatre, 6537 Santa Monica in Hollywood.