

February 17, 2024

Lyric Theatre

“Small”

Written and performed by Robert Montano

Words fail to capture the truly superlative wonderfulness of Robert Montano’s one-man show “Small.” Montano deftly transitions from character to character that are as diverse as his mother, various race track personnel and his mentor while telling the story of his experience as a racehorse jockey.

Montano’s honestly told autobiographical tale is populated with all the wacky individuals found around a race track. Each character is a finely tuned personality enhanced by Montano’s amazing physical expressions.

His wit runs throughout the show as does his exquisite array of emotions. One moment the audience was laughing at a silly situation. The next moment it was gripping seats with anxiety because of the foolish risks young Montano was taking.

Montano as a young boy was teased and bullied because he was so small. He hated being small until his mother took him to Belmont Race track. There he saw the kings of the track, the horse jockeys. And his dream was born. Unfortunately, nature got in the way of his dream and he grew. But determined to fulfill this idea, he resorted to starvation and drugs to keep his weight off.

The story was funny, intense and genuine. “Small” was also the fastest 90 minutes imaginable. Montano’s energetic pace made the production fly by.

Montano has worked with such great directors and choreographers as Hal Prince, Rob Marshall, and Jerome Robbins. His Broadway, film and television resume is legendary. And, his mentor, teacher and above all else, friend was the late great Chita Rivera.

“Small” has adult language and situations and is probably not appropriate for young children. However, their parents will find “Small” compelling.

Oklahoma City audiences have a habit of giving standing ovations to every show they see. “Small” was different. The cheers and ovation at the end of this show were genuinely felt and most of all very well deserved.

“Small” played off Broadway before making its Oklahoma premier at Lyric Theatre.

“Small” will play at Lyric Theatre’s Plaza Theatre through February 25. Run, don’t walk! Get tickets now for an amazing theatre experience.