

Sticky Sweet

Posted By: Otiena Ellwand

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Perfect Wedding is like a box of chocolates

The trouble begins in *Perfect Wedding*, Langham Court's season closer, when Bill (Stephen Beugeling) wakes up next to Judy (Odile Nelson), a woman who is not his fiancée but is his best man's girlfriend. Bill is to be married later that same day: A *Perfect Wedding* it shall not be. What's even worse is that Bill and Judy are in a bed that looks like a box of Valentine's Day chocolate—the honeymoon suite, ransacked.

In this chocolate box sit two very confused people, both melting in their own pitiful romances that they both secretly want out of. The play rolls out as one would expect of a rom-com—with a handful of hilarious misunderstandings, fancy lies, cat-and-mouse chase games and childish antics—it delivers on its promise of being full of easy laughs.

As you've probably figured out, *Perfect Wedding*, written by Robin Hawdon, is neither profound nor foreign in our Hollywood-saturated stage productions, but it is light and enjoyable entertainment nonetheless.

Most of the cast successfully achieves a sense of heightened anxiety with equal parts comedy without feeling like they are forcing it. The best man, Tom (Henry Skey), excels in transforming from loyal best mate to knife-welding maniac; the chambermaid, Julie (Dallas Ashby), does well as the only wise one in hot-pink Converse running shoes; and a surprisingly punchy appearance from the bride-to-be's mother-in-law, Daphne (Elizabeth Whitmarsh), adds a dash of salt to a somewhat tepid plot.

At times the drama does seem artificial, mostly because director Penelope Harwood sends Bill and Judy running around the stage like chickens with their heads cut off for much of their own dialogues, which takes away from allowing them to establish a strong sense of presence. But while it does get tedious after their fifth lap between rooms, they still manage to portray their characters in such a way that you hope they'll end up together because they are just so darn pathetic they deserve one another.

Like you do with a box of chocolates, this play is meant to be shared and indulged upon in small quantities—it's a kick of sugar for your evening out and nothing more or less substantial than that.