

*Subject: midsummer review*

*Date: Monday, July 4, 2005 11:42 PM*

*From: James Borgmann*

*To: mspt@goldfishpublishers.com*

Dear Mr. Turvin,

If I may have not had the best energy of all time on our opening night as Egeus. I would like to point out that several people who know me were surprised that I performed well.

My first audience in 25 years and the fact that a small part such as Egeus doesn't offer much opportunity to recover from low energy, might lead you to curtail your snideness.

Ok, forgettable maybe, but the line up remark was cold and unnecessary.

I'm not telling you that your opinion of my brief appearance as Egeus was wrong, but being forgettable as you put it also suggests that I did nothing to bring the part down. There is, as I see it, only a light window of opportunity to make this part memorable, I admit that I missed the opportunity opening night. But I have had better nights since and before.

Bottom line is you could have mentioned the lack of excitement in my performance in a more positive way.

Like: I was passable. Or adequate even. Nothing to write home about but did nothing to detract from the play.

Any of these would tell me that you understand a below energy performance of a bit part.

I am a newly returned actor essentially a beginner after 25 years away from the stage. To throw insults around without being the slightest bit constructive is only harmful. Should I now find other pursuits and avoid the stage because I wasn't memorable as Egeus. I challenge you to find one review where a critic says The performance of Egeus was memorable.

I seriously doubt that you have been harmed by watching this energetic and fun rendition of Midsummer nights dream. I doubt my performance hurt your experience.

If nothing memorable is found than offer the negative result you find with an understanding of what I was attempting not just blow me off as forgettable, I might understand if you said. James Borgmann (you misspelled my name by the way) fell short of the injured father he was trying to present, it came across as just angry and lacked good energy.

I agree with a lot of the rest of your review of the play. I just think you should be able to find my flaws and mention them or give me a C+ and pass me. I think I was a C+ Friday, B Saturday and an A- Sunday. If there wasn't enough there to review perhaps it is because there isn't much written for that part in the first place.

Your review, while memorable, is flawed and I wonder what good you have accomplished by being the reviewer.

James

Mr. Borgmann,

Thank you for your comments about my review. I'm terribly sorry to have misspelled your name, and have already corrected and re-posted the review.

As an educator, I'm quite aware of grading systems, and where your self-assessment of your opening night performance would be a "C+," mine would not. My comment has nothing to do with your lack of energy, as it says further in the paragraph. "There are no small parts, only small actors" the saying goes. I'm very uncomfortable with converting reviews into grades, but in my opinion, not making a single recognizable choice is a cause for "failing" a performance. It's hard to put a positive spin on nothing. Balance your performance with the over-the-top offering of Robert Schile, who grandly emotes and uses funny voices to turn a role of equal length into something memorable. Also note that at the top of the paragraph I place part of the blame for the problems of the court on the director.

I'd like to point out that I did not like your performance, and I did not condemn you as an actor. I'm only going on one performance, and do not feel that this is a referendum on your talent.

I'm glad to hear that you feel your performance is improving. Break a leg for the remainder of the run.

Cheers,

Mark S.P. Turvin

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