

'Standing on Ceremony' at CPT is worth a standing O

March 14, 2015

8:24 PM MST



View all
12 photos

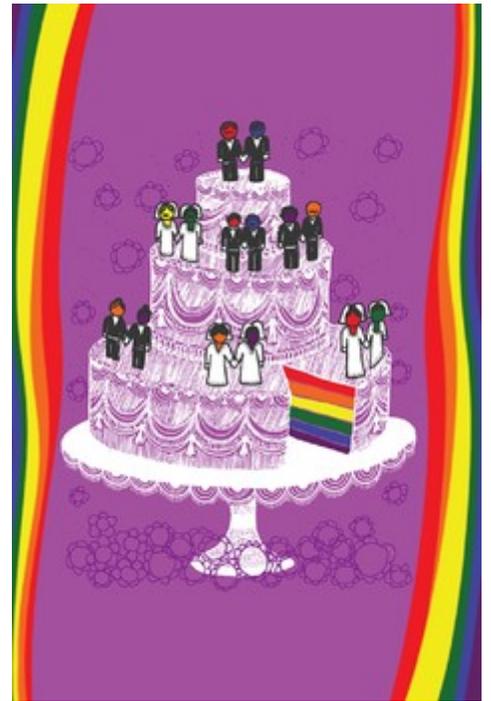
Standing on Ceremony at CPT
Steve Wagner

Standing on Ceremony at Cleveland Public Theatre

Rating: ★★★★★

Love stories and the search for equality co-mingle in [Cleveland Public Theatre's](#) (CPT) smart, sweet and significant production of "[Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays](#)" (SOC), playing now through March 21 at the Gordon Square Theatre on the CPT campus. Both hard-hitting and hilarious, the production features short plays authored by Mo Gaffney, Jordan Harrison, Moisés Kaufman, Neil LaBute, Wendy MacLeod, José Rivera, Paul Rudnick and Doug Wright, with the collective conception by Brian Shnipper.

The production opens with a wedding march played on kazoos and delves into the stories of various couples. Nate and Wallace are trying to write their vows; on the way to their wedding, Allie is having doubts as she and Hannah wait to board a plane at the airport; a group enacts an explosively funny Facebook thread on the subject of gay marriage; Joe explains the meaning of London mosquitoes; families support or disown their gay relatives.



Cleveland Public Theatre

All of these stories come together in one show as a projected map of the United States updates in the background, displaying the states that recognize same-sex marriage. The map fills up slowly throughout the show, demonstrating the spread of equality, awareness and triumph. It is also a sobering visual for the work that still needs to be done in the states that do not yet acknowledge marriage equality. As of now, 12 states (including Ohio) have no legal recognition for same-sex couples.

Craig George has staged a well-paced, clockwork production that will have audiences rolling with laughter in their seats, and then sitting in stunned silence. The emotional roller coaster of these stories is presented in a heartfelt box of joy, wrapped in the bittersweet, and tied with a bow of hope.

The excellent SOC performers include Wesley Allen, Molly Andrews-Hinders, Maryann Elder, Dana Hart, Val Kozlenko, Matt O'Shea and Beth Wood.

The set by Russ Borski features a wide playing space with stairs that lead up to a center playing area, and a projection area as the back wall featuring video design and set adaptation by T. Paul Lowry. Rounding out the excellent design team are lighting designer Ben Gantose and costume designer Alison Garrigan.

Audience members are encouraged to participate by leaving their own love stories on display boards in the lobby area. At the conclusion of the performance, guests are treated to wedding cupcakes.

“Standing on Ceremony” runs through Saturday, March 21 with performances on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday at 7:30pm at [Cleveland Public Theatre](http://www.cptonline.org), Gordon Square Theatre, 6415 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44102. Tickets are \$12-\$28 and can be purchased by visiting www.cptonline.org or calling 216-631-2727 ext 501.

For more information on marriage and relationship recognition laws, [CLICK HERE](#).



Kate Klotzbach

Cleveland Performing Arts Examiner

© 2006-2015 AXS Digital Group LLC d/b/a Examiner.com

