

waiting for him at home. However, he does fall in love with Elphaba, only later in their lives. He is also killed as a result of his alliance with Elphaba, but he was not saved and turned to the Straw Man, as in the musical version. I believe that this choice was made to have the struggle within Elphaba because the man she loves wants another. This adds a

each audience member will go home and approach situations differently. People that they've shunned, made fun of, or, just simply, do not understand will possibly get a second chance. Or, at least, we will all try to understand where people are coming from more. We will try to see a bigger picture, love people for who they are, never make snap judgments, and examine a situation from all sides before we jump to any conclusions. There is a lot to be learned from Elphaba's struggle, perseverance, and difficult life, and I hope that everyone can see the show at least once.

December 30, 2006
New Ambassador's Theatre

Love Song

I truly enjoyed watching John Kolvenbach's *Love Song*, starring Neve Campbell, Michael McKean, and Cillian Murphy. Not only was it amazing to see film stars acting in person, but the play was incredibly well constructed, well conceived, and well acted. The play was also incredibly thought provoking, for it made me think about situations that I had never really considered previously.

The main situation that the play examined was the idea of real versus fake and the importance of that distinction. Beane essentially creates an imaginary girlfriend with his delusions of Molly. Molly, though she is not real, brings Beane out of his clouded depression, allowing him to be open to the world. It is as if Molly awakens Beane to the world around him, waking him to sights, sounds, tastes, and life, in general.

truth. Beane was a severely depressed man, who lacked appetite and interest for anything and anyone. He had shut himself off from the world and its possessions. He lived a solitary life without stimulation or happiness. I believe that Beane truly hit rock bottom right before he created Molly.

In my own personal experiences, I have seen that it sometimes when you hit rock bottom, the lowest of the low, the most depressed, is when you find a new way out. Sometimes it takes the most desperate of situations to envelop you into a state of utter despair, and, from that state, you can create a new plan, a new way of approaching the situation. I think that Beane's utter desperation caused him to create in his mind the person that could help him out of it. He knew that he could not get the help he needed from his sister or Harry, so he found or, better, conceived the person that could save him. After all, Molly is a part of Beane; she is an extension of Beane, a creation of Beane. She is inside of Beane. Therefore, the courage and strength was inside of Beane all along. I think of that as survival.

Survival is being able to save oneself when there seems no way out. Survival is providing yourself with the tools that you need to live, to make it in the world. Survival in this situation is the creation of motivation. Beane created Molly to motivate himself to

world. Molly does just the opposite of schizophrenia for Beane, for she encourages him experience the world, to see the world in another light.

I would also like to discuss two important scenes in the play that relate to each other, in my opinion. First, was the scene where Joan expresses why she shut herself off from the world. She speaks of her heartache when she was dumped as a teenager. She talks of how the incident completely destroyed her, how she was dissolved to nothing because of her emotions. She tells Beane that at that moment, witnessing her pitiful desperation, she decided to never again let herself be made a fool of by emotions. Suddenly, we understand why Joan has been so closed off and distanced from others throughout the play. We see why she has put up walls around herself, not allowing any emotions to break through. We understand why she has so many problems relating to her “incompetent” interns, her colleagues, and her husband.

In contrast to this, the last scene, where Beane decides to venture out into the world, without Molly, shows a very different approach to life. In this scene, Beane tells Molly that she has awakened him to the world- its sights, its sounds, its feelings- and he wants to go out to experience more. He says he cannot turn off this desire, now that it has been realized. Though he says he doesn't know who he is without her, he wants to find out. Molly is, at first, hesitant to see him go, for she wants to keep him for herself. However, she realizes that Beane is actually being quite brave to open himself to the world.

As the door opens, and the outside world floods in, the play ends with a somewhat ambiguous feeling. However, I think this is the perfect ending for a play of this nature. Those who are open to the world open their front door each day, not knowing exactly

