

This review appeared in my house's mailbox on Monday. I don't know who the writer is. I directed this production; I cannot review it myself, but I decided to publish this on my site anyway.

J. Peter Bergman

Invitation to an "Invitation"  
by Belle Jean Paulsen

Get up from your chair and order tickets to the Ghent Playhouse production of "Invitation to a March" by Arthur Laurents and Stephen Sondheim. Director J. Peter Bergman has staged a very good version of this play; it laughs at the mediocrity of most love stories and lets us see the repercussions that follow.



Jennifer Young, Matt Benincasa;  
Photo: John Shea

Their sons are played by Matt Benincasa and Jerry Byrne, two handsome actors who charm us along with the heroine of the play, Norma Brown, played with style by Leigh Fisher-Troche whose little blackmailing brother is played by Noah First-Huneau. Jennifer Young, a very southern actress, plays their mother who doesn't understand much and does it

A very good cast, including a very good "cast-off," handle this 1960 play with style and humor. Meg Dooley as La Jablonski is the Queen of the beach-front and she deserves her crown which glimmers in the final scene. Her ex-lover, Tucker Grogan, is played by the handsome Mark Wilson and his wife is played by Sally McCarthy, a wicked role for an actress to use as a resume-changer.



Meg Dooley, Mark Wilson;  
Photo: John Shea

well.

The play is filled with laughs and music by Stephen Sondheim who was not known for his music at the time. The music is as good as the jokes and the three acts of the play whiz by as a result. I laughed a lot and so did the large audience around me. There is even an old wooden chair that acts as it moves around the stage.



Jerry Byrne and Leigh Fisher-Troche;  
Photo: John Shea

The director designed a great set - two beach houses on Long Island - and Joe Sicotte painted the set with pretty lights. I really enjoyed this play that will be running for the next two weekends in Ghent, New York. I never heard of this play before but I will never forget it now.

Jeannie Paul  
(the Belle of the Ball)

For tickets contact the theater at 518-392-6264 or go online at [ghentplayhouse.org](http://ghentplayhouse.org).