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Metro Theatre's "A Comedy of Tenors" provides an evening of laughter and song

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"Comedy of Tenors" with (I. to r.) Vicente Sandoval, Bill McNaughton, Katie Chapman, Emmanuelle Corne Bertrand and Carlos Vela Martinez

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Metro Theatre's remarkable production of Ken Ludwig's "A Comedy of Tenors." This is the sequel to Ludwig's hugely popular — and oh, so funny - "Lend Me A Tenor" and picks up with the original characters of Tito Merelli (Carlos Vela-Martinez, Max (Vicente Sandoval), Henry (Bill McNaughton) and Maria Merelli (Cindy Hirschberg-Schon). It's ten years later in Paris, and Henry is preparing the "world's greatest concert" featuring three world-famous tenors. For the next two hours we were treated to side-splitting laughs, outrageous antics, a lot of slamming doors (it IS a farce!) and some fine singing. Tito and Marie's daughter Mimi (Katie Chapman) has brought another tenor into her life, who just happens to be her father's greatest rival on the opera stage, Carlo Nucci (Mostafa Shaker). It took a few minutes for the action to get going, but once it started it raced along, and the audience was truly help captive. The set an elegant hotel in Paris — was well thought out, and the costumes (Chrysta Webster) were colourful and fitted the mid-1930's period in which the play is set. I honestly did not expect the quality of singing which the cast had. Voice-overs was probably what I was expecting, so it was an additional — and delightful surprise. Carlos Vela-Martinez deserved the applause and standing ovation he received, doing costume and character changes in what seemed like a split second. In one door and out the door before you could even take a breath, but always in character as the famous tenor, or his doppelganger, the hotel porter. This is a colourful, tuneful and definitely hilarious production, and the direction and sound design by Kayt Roth was seamless. Catch this one at the Metro Theatre in Marpole until October 19th. Showtime is 8:00 p.m., but get there early and enjoy a drink in their comfortable upstairs lounge

Tickets at www.metrotheatre.com or phone 604.266.7191

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