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WATERBURY - Peter Fogel, a professional actor, comedian, and comedy writer, returned to Seven Angels Theatre last weekend to present his multimedia solo show **“Til Death Do Us Part... You First.”**

In the show, Fogel is the eternal bachelor who clearly has major commitment issues. The love of his life has just broken up with him, on Valentine’s Day no less.

Prompted by a note from his director, Academy Award nominee Chazz Palminteri, he decides to revisit the scene of all his romantic disasters. It truly is a comedy for hopeless romantics.



Fogel himself created the one–man show and it often has the feel of a comedian’s stand up routine. The jokes look at the complexities of relationships and are full of the performer's signature wit. The pace is brisk as Fogel thinks quickly on his feet, and the stories keep the audience laughing throughout. The laughs appeared to drive the performance at times, in a good way.

Some of the best parts of the performance are when Fogel brings some distinct characters to life. Whether it is his cousin, his ex girlfriend or an elderly Florida couple, all of them are a riot. As he takes the audience on a hero’s journey, he frequently breaks the fourth wall, speaking directly to the

audience and acknowledging their reactions. It is a fast-paced story of searching for a soul mate and the commitment it requires.

I am not sure that I believe that every story in Fogel's journey is absolutely true, and "the names have been changed to protect the guilty," but they were all very funny.

While no one in the opening night audience would admit to being single, probably for fear of being singled out, the couples certainly enjoyed hearing about the complexities of staying together. I noticed that the oldest audience members could relate to much of Fogel's experiences, just as the actor had predicted. Fogel had promised me that divorced, single or married, no one is left out.

It was evident that Fogel remains proud to have been discovered by Palminteri and is grateful to be the only performer that the talented actor/writer chose to direct.

Although the director does not physically appear in the show, he does have a fun voice - over role, serving as the conscience of Fogel. It almost feels as if Palminteri is backstage keeping an eye on what is happening onstage.

The script clearly has been updated to include contemporary themes. I noticed that Fogel referenced the pandemic and the #metoo movement. For the Waterbury audience, he mentioned Aldi grocery stores, Bridgeport and even my home town of Naugatuck. There were other updates and personalization's that delighted the audience at Seven Angels.

The multimedia elements are low - key, but often funny. The show at Seven Angels took place on a homey set that the actor used as his story unfolds, with the screen for the projected photos located at the rear of the living space. There was a point when the lights on the stage were mistakenly lowered and of course, Fogel worked it into his act.

Fogel travels around the country presenting his fun 75 - minute multimedia solo show, so perhaps he will return to the Brass City to tell his story of the fear of commitment called ***"Til Death Do Us Part.... You First."***