

## Another Troubie triumph ‘Two Gentlemen of Chicago’ rocks

By [Candyce Columbus](#), LA Theater Examiner

Making sense and nonsense of Shakespeare’s *Two Gentlemen of Verona* the Troubadour Theater Company offers another triumphant smash up incorporating the Bard’s poetry and the music of legendary band Chicago. *Two Gentlemen of Chicago* received a standing ovation from the March 23, 2012 opening night audience at the Falcon Theatre evidence that everybody had a good time, on the stage and in the house.

Favorite Troubie elements topical references, zany ad libs, rollicking choreography, high-spirited antics and great vocals make for a delightful romp . . . and when the actors adhere to Shakespeare’s verse they are spot on.

Usual suspects Director Matt Walker(Proteus), Rob Nagle(Valentine), Christine Lakin(Julia), Monica Schneider(Silvia), Brandon Breault(Eglamour/Mercutio), Matthew Morgan(Speed) and Morgan Rusler(Duke of Milan playing his own trombone fanfare) delivered laughs aplenty.

Lisa Valenzuela (Bruschetta) and Katie Nunez (Lucetta) gave strong vocal performances of several Chicago hits. Dance numbers, choreographed by Lakin, were energetic and energizing, and those performed by Joseph Keane (Panthino) and Suzanne Jolie Narbonne (Ursula) were graceful and beautiful.

In a show filled with highlights and high jinks, Beth Kennedy hit new heights as Launce, especially in her scenes with Troubie newcomer Roosevelt the Pug (Crab the Dog) and the Act II opening extended play on words with Morgan.

Last, but certainly not least, Rick Batalia (Thurio and others), blue boots, abbreviated bloomers and all, was marvelously manic. Having a post nasal drip issue but no tissue, he used his hands, promising to shake audience members’ hands at the opening night party. He kept his promise.

Eric Heinly and his fabulous band do justice to the extensive Chicago songbook and distinctive sound. Costumes for Troubie shows are always colorful, but this time Sharon McGunigle outdid herself (don’t miss the rubber Cornish game hens on Launce’s shoulders).

Christmas show fans of this wacky troupe have a surprise awaiting them. No spoiler alerts here.

This reviewer has said it before and is saying it again . . . *don’t miss* this “bust a gut” show.

***Two Gentlemen of Chicago*** performs Wednesday through Sunday through April 22. No show April 8; added performance April 7 at 4pm. **Tickets are** Previews **\$29.50 – \$32**, Weekdays (Wed/Thurs) **\$34.50 – \$37**, Weekends (Fri/Sat/Sun) **\$39.50 – \$42**, Student Rate(valid student ID) **\$27**. Call **(818) 955-8101** or visit [www.FalconTheatre.com](http://www.FalconTheatre.com).

*The Falcon Theatre is located at 4252 Riverside Drive in Burbank.*



'Proteus' (Matt Walker), 'Julia' (Christine Lakin), 'Silvia' (Monica Schneider) and 'Valentine' (Rob Nagle).

**Credits:** Chelsea Sutton

