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Review of If Cows Could Fly

CBC Ottawa

Alvina Ruprecht, interviewed by Hallie Cotnam

Hallie: Now the other play, the other new production, *If Cows Could Fly*, that we heard a little snippet at the top [Allan Merovitz singing *A Purim Song*].

Alvina: That was in Yiddish, actually, what he was singing..

Hallie: What is that play about?

Alvina: It's from Artword Theatre in Toronto, written and performed by Allan Merovitz. It's about being a Jew in Smiths Falls. But it's also about Jewish immigrant history and about the immigrant experience in general. About coming to Canada from Poland, Latvia, the Baltic States, Russia. It's about living in the Maritimes, eating fish, coming to the "groys shtetl" of Montreal and about finally settling in the Ottawa Valley.

Allan Merovitz is lovable and enchanting. He's a wonderful storyteller. He takes on the voices of three generations of men who tell his story. He sings, he mimes, he brings to life a whole community of characters.

And with him on stage are three Klezmer musicians who play everything from Klezmer to Pontiac County step dancing and Ottawa Valley country music, and it works. It's wonderful.

At the end we learn that cows CAN fly, Hallie, and it's a miracle.

So catch up on your Yiddish.

Go see this. It's a fine evening. I laughed, I cried. I had a wonderful time. And that was it.

Hallie: You liked it.

Alvina: Oh yes, I loved it. You can understand because he translates most of the things as he goes along. So there's no language problem at all.

Hallie: Thank you very much Alvina. *If Cows Could Fly* plays at the Irving Greenberg Theatre Centre until March 9. You can call 613-236-5196 for information and reservations.