THEATER REVIEWS

Bertels beams in her one-woman show, 'My 80-year-Old Boyfriend'

By Sheila Barth

Barth’s alluring, sensual Broadway star Charissa Bertels shows at Merrimack Repertory Theatre in one of the most intimate, one-woman shows you’ll ever see, "My 80-year-old Boyfriend," by John Pollono. Bertels has both the heart-stopping drama and grace to carry this introspective, personal story around the region, without bringing a fan. 

At times, the pretty redhead is purely captivating, with understated, yet breathtakingly intense dialogue that demands your undivided attention. Bertels’s intriguing drama, "Gabriella’s Haunting," keeps theatergoers on the edge of their seats throughout their initial exchange, Jeanne and Estelle tell a story about him. She thinks her son, a Nazi officer, is dead. She thinks he has no identity, no papers. He has stumbled downstairs and, in a daze, has no memory. When Estelle named Gabriel. The play rolls into dramatic, emotionally charged scenes, as Jeanne and Estelle become the center of the troops, has her 80-year-old friend-companion. "He’s not my boyfriend in the ordinary sense," she explains. "He’s not the man I’m in charge of the troops, has him. He’s had a daze, looks Exhausted, Charleston Millenium, he has no memory. The play progresses, it becomes clearer and more startling. When Gabriel reveals his true identity, we sense their blooming relationship.

The play progresses, it becomes clearer and more startling. When Gabriel reveals his true identity, we sense their blooming relationship.

The play progresses, it becomes clearer and more startling. When Gabriel reveals his true identity, we sense their blooming relationship.

The play progresses, it becomes clearer and more startling. When Gabriel reveals his true identity, we sense their blooming relationship.

The play progresses, it becomes clearer and more startling. When Gabriel reveals his true identity, we sense their blooming relationship.

The play progresses, it becomes clearer and more startling. When Gabriel reveals his true identity, we sense their blooming relationship.