

LEGALLY BLONDE

Presented by Broadway Across America

Dec. 28 through Jan. 2, 2010

For tickets call: 1-800-745-3000

Hello, I'm Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large.

The blonde in this case is perfection in pink. An all American, adorable, cotton candy confection, named Elle Woods. She lives a happily ever after life in Malibu where the living is perfect in every way. She has a handsome, socially ambitious boyfriend Warren Huntington III. Perhaps even more meaningful to our Elle are her blood deep bonds with her sorority sisters in Delta Nu. They sustain each other by keeping up with the latest fashions and goings on as reported in such magazines as Town and Country and Elle. They all scream a lot and by and large have blonde hair. Yes, they appear to be your classic Broadway bimbos for the most part.

But wait, there's more. Warren Huntington III, played with neat restraint by Jeff Mclean, is accepted by Harvard Law School. What's more, he has decided that he will ultimately need a wife with a high society pedigree. He dumps Elle. She's hurt but not destroyed and simply gets herself into Harvard Law as well to follow her love. In class, in the beginning of her academic career, she takes notes on a pink heart shaped note pad while other students use their lap tops. But life quickly changes. She discovers law books that must be read instead of beauty salon mags and finds a very likable young man, Emmett Forrest, played and sung very well by B.D. Bonds. Elle has exceptional legal instincts. With Emmett's help and comforting advice from Paulette, a beautician, performed by Natalie Joy Johnson, Elle's true self emerges. She becomes a highly skilled lawyer and proves her talent in a murder trial.

She also makes clear that pink and pretty do not negate intelligence. At the happy ending she is valedictorian, having learned the importance of "to thine own self be true." Becky Gulsvig is well cast as Elle. One wishes she could incorporate some of her physical attributes and character traits into her singing. She belts and screams every one of her songs. When she does try to do what we used to call a ballad, the musical machines in the pit won't allow it. Furthermore, Acme Sound Partners audio design makes everyone, but especially the women, shrill, harsh and unintelligible. One completely loses the lyrics in most of the songs. I have a feeling some of the tunes and words are clever but it's hard to tell with this ultra loud, colorless sound system.

The brilliant Jerry Mitchell is responsible for direction and choreography. This race horse fast paced production has an exceptional cast of superior talent and Mitchell works them very hard. The show never takes a breath. Every moment is done at climax level. We're always at the top the mountain and there are times we would enjoy a different view.

This is Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large and I'll see you at the next opening.