

“Going to A Place Where You Already Are” – “A Heavenly and Delightful Experience, Superbly Done, A Winner”!

Is it possible you don't believe in Heaven? Neither Joe (Richard Rivera) nor his wife Roberta (Jody Catlin) do, inasmuch as they are atheists who by definition don't accept such nonsense. As life has a penchant for upending the truths one thinks most cemented and inviolate, Joe and Roberta start pondering the possibility of the impossible as more funerals than weddings start filling their social calendars.

Joe has a scientific mind and knows Heaven is a lovely illusion which is nothing but hogwash at the core. Roberta was equally as dogmatic in her husband's shared belief until...she is confronted with her own mortality. Their granddaughter, Ellie (Heather Warren), has her busy life assaulted by guilt feelings over her treatment of Jonas (Miguel Gongora Jr.) a casual fling. The complication comes from Jonas being a wheelchair bound paraplegic. Is she a bad person she ponders? In truth she is anxious to get rid of him so she can focus on her work. Kudos to Gongora for allowing us to see him as a real and honest guy, with a persuasive smile and persistent nature.

Ellie, who works in the city, has precious little time for anyone and feels put upon when someone makes demands on her schedule. She is suddenly shocked from her self absorption when her grandmother calls to reveal she has the dreaded C word disease: cancer. Ellie decides to visit her parents and learns that her mother has had a near-death episode in which she visited heaven and returned. She recounts the beauty and serenity of this joyful place that she is certain was real. A big round of applause for Catlin's scene as she dreamily floats across the stage experiencing heaven. The twinkle in her eyes made the scene a moving moment.

Hannah Logan (Director) gently reminds us that we are all going to die someday and will be faced with our own mortality. Yes, life is fleeting. At its end a floodgate of emotions are bound to come. Surely there will be regrets; longing for things lost or undone; the finality of closure. Knowledge that your demise is near empowers you with the ability to decide how you deal with your last few months. The expectation that the journey is not ending but just beginning as you travel to a better place that awaits you, is the peaceful and magical power of belief.

A heartfelt experience, whether you believe or not!