

# LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

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## Entertainment



Shane Partlow and Rowan Joseph star in "The Queen of Bingo" at the Reed Whipple Main Theater. Photo by Wesley Horton.

### Touring 'Bingo!' was a pleasant time-killer

By ANTHONY DEL VALLE  
REVIEW-JOURNAL

You don't have to be tuned into the bingo culture to have enjoyed the touring comedy "The Queen of Bingo!" Sunday. But it wouldn't have hurt.

Disclosure: I recently played my first public game, and it seemed I was the only one in the crowd under 70. I bought one card, and I won on the first game. Those kindly-looking elderly ladies gave me to-die glares and muttered under their breath what I could see were very, very foul things.

So, the first few minutes of the production by Los Angeles' Theatre A Go-Go had me

#### REVIEW

**What:** "The Queen of Bingo!"  
**When:** Nov. 19  
**Where:** Reed Whipple Main Theater  
**Grade:** B-

laughing hard in recognition as the two characters slowly unpacked and set up their tables at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with the solemnity of a funeral ritual.

Sis and Babe were portrayed by two men (union actors Shane Partlow and Rowan Joseph), for no other reason

that I could see than to make the elderly ladies even more over-the-top.

Sis is elegant, slim and well-dressed. She plays every night because she's lonely. The hefty Babe, her kid sibling, is dressed in a Goodwill special. She attends because it's just about the only time during her waking hours when she doesn't want to eat. Between the yuks you got to know a lot about these two gentle souls. You even came to admire what the whole ritual of bingo can bring to people's lives.

Partlow and Joseph not only turned in first-rate performances, but complemented each other as well. You saw

them as two distinctive women, never as men in drag. Joseph's direction was fluid. He took good care of his co-star.

One could argue the script by Jeanne Michels and Phyllis Murphy isn't as loaded with one-liners as it needs to be. There are too many set-ups designed to bring down the house that fizzle.

But the 75-minute matinee made for a pleasant time-killer. You could tell where the bingo fanatics were sitting. Certain areas of the theater rang nearly **nonstop with guffaws.**

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