

For these guys 'BINGO' is a real drag!

By Wesley Horton

Professional actors Rowan Joseph and Shane Partlow love playing BINGO in real life but on-stage it's a real drag. The male actors star in the new hit comedy, *The Queen of Bingo*, as 'Sis' and 'Babe' - two sisters on the other side of 50 who want to add a little fun, zest and excitement to their lives...but where to find it? BINGO!

"I've played BINGO for years but this is the first time I've ever played a woman," said Joseph, who portrays the younger, diet crazy, brassy and slightly overweight sister, 'Babe'. "Doing this role has given me an even greater sense of respect for the opposite sex. If you ask me, every man should have to *walk a mile in another woman's bra* at some point in his life!" joked the actor. Joseph, 51, is appearing for the first time as one of the two sisters in the play after having directed both the Off-Broadway (New York City) and Chicago productions of the hit comedy.

"Babe, like many women in their 50's, has an issue with her weight. She bemoans the fact that she's on the verge of 'a size eighteen!' just at the time when the local high school football coach has asked her out to the homecoming celebration. She ticks off the endless list of diets she has been on, which is always greeted with howls of laughter by the audience," said Joseph.

"I, on the other hand, have walked a LOT of miles in my heels as Sis!" said 40 year-old, Shane Partlow.

Partlow has been starring for the past two years in the successful touring production of the play, appearing at dozens of theaters across the U.S., as well as, the Capitol Theater in Windsor, Canada. "Playing my role has given me a better understanding of the issues a lot of older women face, being a widow, not wanting to depend

on your children all the time, even dating! At one point in the play she says, 'Who wants to go out on a date? Some old fart wanting me to take care of him, no thanks, once was enough for me.' That always gets a big laugh from the seniors in the audiences, men and women both."

Ironically, the Red Hat Society la-

dies have been special patrons of the play since its "male" reincarnation began several years ago. The Red Hat philosophy of "silliness is the comic relief of life" fits perfectly with the nature of the play's humor. Joseph and Partlow feel that much of the show's success has been due in large part to the gals in red & purple who frequent performances wherever it's presented. In fact, the touring version of *The Queen of Bingo* was the entertainment at a Red Hat convention in Lapeer, MI. "The Red Hats are definitely our Guardian Angels," said Partlow, "even more so than BINGO players."

As you can see, this is a show that you definitely don't want to miss. Performances are scheduled on April 4th and 5th at 7:30 pm in the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center located at 7033 Glenn Highway in Cambridge, Ohio. Just call 740-439-7009 or go to www.pritchardlaughlin.com for show and ticketing information.

To find out more about the show and 'Sis' and 'Babe' - make that Shane and Rowan, take a spin on the show's website at www.thequeen-ofbingo.com. It's filled with lots of fun facts and interesting tidbits - even photos of the past Turkey winners!

So grab you best Bingo Buddy and get on out to Cambridge on the 4th or 5th to catch the show. We're sure you'll be glad you did! And, if you get to talk to one of the "girls", tell them you heard all about it in the Bingo Bugle.



"Sis" and "Babe" are played by Shane Partlow and Rowan Joseph in the upcoming production of "The Queen of Bingo". The play will be held at the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge, Ohio at 7:30 pm on April 4th & 5th. The evening performances start at 7:30 pm both nights.

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