

# The Toluca Times

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## Nite Lights

By Pat Taylor

### The Queen of Bingo

HOLLYWOOD – A *laughfest* for all, whether or not you've ever been to a bingo hall, this is a feel good show! Bingo spending in North America is said to be a \$90 million a week venture, played by 43 percent men and 57 percent women, though the gals play more often. *Riotously* penned by Jeanne Michels and Phyllis Murphy (about two actual women), it comically explores the addictive thrill of a game, played by 60 million folks in the U.S. Originally done in Chicago in 1993, and next off-Broadway in 1996, the roles were then played by women. Now played by two guys in drag, it is funnier than ever! Focusing on two sassy senior sisters on the other side of 50, we spend a girl's night out at a bingo hall. We snoop in on their nutty views on family ties, dieting, romance, hot flashes, gossip and the titillating thrill of yelling out "BINGO!" Shane Partlow, as the svelte and stylish Sis, and Rowan Joseph, as her chubby, younger, less secure sister Babe, are *screamingly funny* and infectiously loveable as the bingo parlor divas! (Joseph also cleverly directs the show.) Billed as a show that "seats 70 and feeds a family of five," each audience member plays an actual bingo

game, and every night some lucky lunatic wins and takes home a 10 lb. turkey. Peter Colburn is *delightful* as Father Mac, the jolly Irish priest who calls out our game until someone shouts out "BINGO!" The fun starts when the disgruntled sisters discover that a *very large* player has nabbed their designated spots...and fills *both* of their seats with her expansive derriere.



Shane Partlow and Rowan Joseph star in "The Queen of Bingo."

Performing their riotous ritual of setting out their countless good luck props, they finally settle in ready to play...and maybe even win a bundle! This one is a lot of fun! Running indefinitely at The Coronet (studio) Theatre, 366 N. La Cienega in Hollywood. Call (310) 657-7377.