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The Valley of Astonishment Will Leave You...Astonished By Tom Sellar



Spouse Divided By Tom Sellar

Piece of His Heart: Bert Berns Is a Name You Need to Know

By James Hannaham Wednesday, Jul 23 2014

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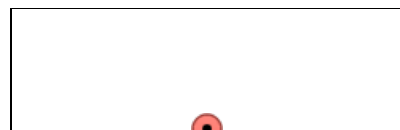


Jenny Anderson

He wrote the songs: Zak Resnick (center) as Bert Berns, with Derrick Baskin and Bryan Fenkart in Piece of My Heart.

"I want to be known," says the magnetic young actor Zak Resnick, playing the part of songwriter Bert Berns. Bert who? Berns, the subject of this biographical jukebox musical, penned several of the best-known hits of the 1960s, including "Twist and Shout," "Hang On Sloopy," and the eponymous Janis Joplin signature tune. As a contract writer with Atlantic Records at the Brill Building, Berns somehow failed to achieve the fame of comparable songwriters of his era. His children have dedicated much of their energy to boosting his legend, including co-producing this show.

Location Info



Piece of My Heart: The Bert Berns Story severely boils down

The dialogue might inspire some groans, but the singing

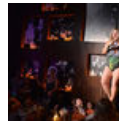
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The Valley of Astonishment Will Leave You...Astonished

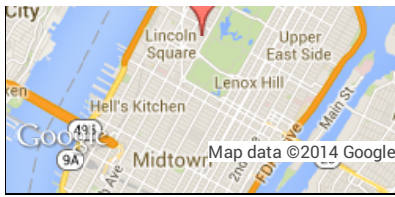


Bridget Everett Whacks Rock Bottom at Joe's Pub

9/25 Karen Marie Orsted From \$36 57%

9/25 Enrique Iglesias & Pi... From \$94 213%





Pershing Square
 90 E. 42nd St.
 New York, NY 10017
 Category: Restaurant > American
 Region: East 40s
[Photos](#)

Details

Piece of My Heart: The Bert Berns Story
 By Daniel Goldfarb and Bert Berns
 Pershing Square Signature Center
 480 West 42nd Street
 212-279-4200
pieceofmyheartmusical.com

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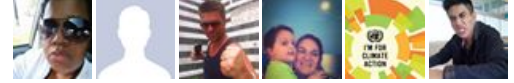
fascinating incidents of

Berns's life — interracial affairs, self-imposed exile to Cuba just before the revolution, shady business deals, and a heart condition that killed him at age 38. But Berns's songs (many co-written), are either intriguingly quirky or gorgeous, even the unfamiliar ones, showing off a stunning emotional range, and here they're affectingly embedded into his biography. The dialogue might inspire some groans, but the singing is uniformly outstanding, and the arrangements leap into relevance the schmaltzier the tune. I could watch Linda Hart's Stritch-like portrayal of Berns's scheming widow all day, and as for Resnick, with his casual brilliance, dreamy voice, and idol looks, it seems a foregone conclusion that he will be known.

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