

I was fortunate to catch **Summer Break Theatre**'s final dress rehearsal of the regional premiere of *Midnight!* last night.

Written by playwright David Epstein and first produced in New York by **Maggie Meador** in 2005, this hilarious screwball comedy is finding new life in Austin, and it is well worth seeing.

Without giving too much away, imagine 1950s New York with the fast paced chaos of *Noises Off*. Add classic American theater and film, genuine artistic talent, and the ugly side of crass commercialism, and you have a smart, funny comedy that keeps the laughs coming.

Standout performances come from **Matrex Kilgore**, **Taylor Flanagan**, and **Mark Gerchak**. Kilgore and Flanagan create funny, fully realized characters with terrific comic timing. Gerchak takes it a step further, playing three different layers of the same character as changing circumstances force him to become someone new. It is an impressive performance.

The entire ensemble shows expert timing, sharp physical comedy, and quick wit. They switch from swaggering confidence to genuine panic in an instant, and every turn feels earned.

Throw in a few cases of mistaken identity, and you have all the ingredients for a great night of laughter.

Midnight runs August 6 through 16 at The Stage Austin inside the Sterling Events Center, 6134 U.S. 290 Frontage Road.