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## The 'Ride' of one woman's life

**2.5 MINUTE RIDE.** Written and performed by Lisa Kron. Directed by Mark Brokaw. Scenery by Allen Moyer. Costumes by Jess Goldstein. Lighting by Kenneth Posner. At the Public Theater, 425 Lafayette St.

**T**ying together her family's visits to an amusement park and a concentration camp — where her father's parents perished — Lisa Kron locates the paradoxes and ironies of life.

In the insightful and witty "2.5 Minute Ride," her new one-woman show, Kron projects blank images on a screen and proceeds to describe them as if

they were photographs we can actually see. This encourages us to insert photos from our own family albums, and suggests that we all have similar stories — of the ancestors we never knew and the parents we only partially understand.

The title refers to a roller coaster at Cedar Point in Ohio, where Kron's family made an annual pilgrimage from their home in Michigan. Despite her father's diabetes and heart condition, he loved subjecting himself to pulse-quicken moments on rides like the Iron Dragon and the Mean Streak.

While Kron mingles such memories with vivid anecdotes of visiting Auschwitz with her father, she also keeps returning to her brother's marriage to an Orthodox Jew and the impact it had on her family. Such developments are compared with her own relationship with a woman named Peg. "I wanted them to know we accept them, even though they're straight," she says of her brother and his new wife.

When Kron contrasts her family with Peg's, she says, "There is nothing like watching someone else watching your family, to really give you perspective." Such an observation is typical of both Kron's wisdom and her subtlety. Describing health food in the Midwest as "a Big Mac in a pita" is typical of her wit.

A celebrated member of an Off-Broadway troupe called the Five Lesbian Brothers, Kron proves highly engaging throughout her solo piece. But as a plot device, the invisible slide show eventually wears out its welcome. And in a sense, the real story — about coping with life's curve balls and amusements — is provided in a between-the-lines fashion.

But "2.5 Minute Ride," directed by Mark Brokaw, has been put together with compassion and understated finesse.

— David Kaufman



**TRAVELER'S TALES:** Lisa Kron in "2.5 Minute Ride"