

Theater review

'2.5 Minute Ride'

Tiffany Theaters, West Hollywood
Through March 5

By Ed Kaufman

After receiving rave reviews and an off-Broadway Obie last spring, Lisa Kron has brought her solo performance piece "2.5 Minute Ride" to the Tiffany's South Stage.

It's one helluva ride, a remarkable and compelling blend of horror and humor, shtick, satire, self-revelation and social commentary. All of it is strung together by the evocative and often seriously funny Kron, a lively storyteller who skillfully manages to merge the sacred with the profane.

All starts with a slide show. Only there are no slides, and what is projected on the dark walls are a series of rectangular blanks. Kron "sees" the images; we see none. Only at the end of the performance do we



Kron

wit and wisdom.

"2.5 Minute Ride" boldly takes on the task of telling three different stories and looking for the connectives among them. One is a bizarre annual family pilgrimage from Michigan to Ohio's Cedar Point Amusement Park, where the family eats hamburgers at 10 a.m. and rides the daredevil rides — despite heat, old age and infirmity. One roller coaster is called

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"get the picture"; Kron's extraordinary artistry has led us through an emotional (and ultimately spiritual) maze into an acceptance of life's ironies and vagaries. With

'Ride'

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Mean Streak: a three-story free fall in a "2.5 minute ride" — and her aging, sick and almost-blind father's favorite.

Another gathering involves a marriage in New York's Canarsie neighborhood of Kron's brother to a woman (an Orthodox woman, at that) whom he met in a Jewish singles chat room on AOL.

The third gathering is of a different sort. Seven years ago, she and her septuagenarian father visited his hometown in Germany and returned to Auschwitz, where his parents were killed.

By the end of Kron's performance, a kind of symmetry among the stories emerges, all of it shaped by time and her ability to understand her father's zest for life. Only then, Kron argues, can the blank images of the mind take shape.

LISA KRON'S 2.5 MINUTE RIDE

Presented by Paula Holt,
Perla Karney, Loren Stephens,
Patricia Glaser and Daryl Roth

Written and performed by Lisa Kron
Directed by Mark Brokaw
Scenic design by Alan Moyer
Lighting design by Kenneth Posner
Sound design by Darron L. West