



artspicks

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE



by David Anthony Fox
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Here's a marvelous play that we hardly ever get to see anymore. Why? First, because it needs a cast of nearly 30: prohibitively expensive for most professional companies. Next, it must be cast-from-strength top to bottom, as even the smallest roles are juicy and require wonderful acting. And finally, the bittersweet-but-hopeful slice-of-life genre (now we'd call it "Capra-esque") isn't much a part of our contemporary sensibility. Well, the good news is that cast size and the abundance of juicy ensemble parts make *The Time of Your Life* an ideal piece for actor-training programs, which can muster the necessary forces — and offer enough rehearsal time that the sense of a group world actually coheres. And it's a charming world — Nick's Saloon in San Francisco, a faded joint that nonetheless houses the collective and individual dreams of a motley crew including a hooper, a ne'er-do-well, and of course, the requisite hooker. Speaking of Capra, why not shake up your holiday a little this year? Instead of indulging in your umpteenth viewing of *It's A Wonderful Life*, take in the wonderful world of William Saroyan's Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

Runs Nov. 14-Dec. 1, \$20, Temple University, Randall Theater, 1301 W. Norris St.