

EYE WEEKLY

MY MOTHER'S LESBIAN JEWISH-WICCAN WEDDING ★★★★★

First off, *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish-Wiccan Wedding* isn't just a clever title; David Hein turns autobiography into musical theatre as the story of his two moms is told through songs like "You Don't Need a Penis" and "Straight White Male," as well as an awkward dinner date at Hooters and a sidebar on gay rights in Canada. Hein's is a likeable family (especially Lisa Horner as his bio-mom) and the story for the most part is genuinely moving and well-executed, packing a lot into 60 minutes. Outside of Fringe, *MMLJ-WW* would do well touring the country as an all-ages lesson in tolerance. **CBI**

July 9, 8:15pm; July 10, 4:30pm; July 11, 6:30pm; July 12, 2pm.

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NO. 7

A musical about a JEWISH WICCAN LESBIAN MOM is the next *Drowsy Chaperone*

THE THEATRE SENSATION of the past year, *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding* began its brief, wondrous life as a coffee-house song of the same name, sung by its writer, David Hein, to audiences across

North America. He'd get whoops of approval from gay marriage proponents in the States. With his wife, Irene Carl Sankoff, Hein turned the autobiographical ditty into a short musical, mounted in an 85-seat storefront in Kensington as part of last summer's Fringe festival. An impressed David Mirvish programmed it into the 700-seat Panasonic for two weeks last November, and the bulked-up version of the original Fringe piece was extended

five times, for a total of 15 weeks. Now there are rumours the play will follow *Drowsy Chaperone* to Broadway. With gay marriage no longer a hot-button issue in Toronto, the city's audiences focused on the show's attributes: its poignant portrait of a family in transition, its melodic songs, its sly humour. *MMLJWW* has a certain low-key sensibility and a refreshing lack of showiness. It's as unassuming as the city that incubated it.

—Alec Scott

