

# Larchmont Chronicle

February, 2016

## Brilliant sisters in Cabaret-set play

The time is the early 1930's, the place Berlin. *My Sister* by Janet Schlapkohl is set against the growing threat of the National Socialist/Nazi rise to power. The days are growing dark for freedom of expression and for those who don't fit the Nazi ideal of physical beauty.

The story centers on two sis-

ters: Magda (Emily Hinkler), a fledgling chanteuse and comedienne at a local cabaret, and Mathilde (Elizabeth Hinkler), her sister suffering with cerebral palsy and housebound in their small apartment.

Magda's cabaret act is accompanied on piano by musical director Barbara Rottman. The music by Christopher Gene Okiishi and lyrics by Janet Schlapkohl help bring the outside world into focus.

Played by real-life twins, enough cannot be said about the brilliant performances of these two young actresses. Emily as Magda, trying to hold their crumbling worlds together, relates totally to the accurate and touching performance by Elizabeth, whose

disability cannot hide her wit and intelligence.

The director credit is shared by Ron Sossi and Paul David Story who have presented this play with pace and style. This is a wonderful evening at the theatre, not to be missed.

*Through March 6. Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., 310-477-2055, Odyssey-Theatre.com. 4 Stars*

Theater  
Review  
by  
Patricia  
Foster Rye

