

Larchmont Chronicle

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Theater
Review
by
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Miss America's Ugly Daughter, Bess Myerson & Me, is written and performed by her daughter Barra Grant.

The relationship between Myerson and Grant was volatile and difficult. Her mother is heard as an off-stage voice, on the phone, performed live by Monica Piper. The play takes place over the period of one evening that tells us everything we ever wanted to know about the beauty queen. Some of it is not so flattering. Her curriculum vitae in

the program reveals Myerson was the first and only Jewish Miss America. She went on to have a varied career in television and politics and served as national commissioner of the Anti-Defamation League. Barra was an only child. As she says, a schlubby child, always in the shadow of her elegant mother.

Over the course of this one act, much is revealed about the quintessential, yet flawed, Miss America. And we learn more about Grant from school age to her career as an actress and screenwriter, and her marriage and the birth of her daughter.

Director Eve Brandstein keeps the pace moving and carefully delineates the chapters in Grant's life. Video projection by Tom Jones, who is also credited with sound design, shows various locales and posts press photos.

Through Sun., March 24, Greenway Court Theatre, 544 N. Fairfax Ave., 323-285-2078, missamericasuglydaughter.com. 4 Stars