

## **RARDIN PROVIDES A BETTER REVIEW**

Cheers, roses and kudos to Leslie Rardin on her superlative review of the Barn Theatre's *Huckleberry Finn* (July 23). At last, a review that really gives the reader an excellent idea of what the play's plot, characters and cast are about.

As a multi-season ticket holder, I bristle every time I read a review by Marcia Groat. To me, it appears that she has a rule to mention all leading players with at least a word or two, even if they are meaningless generalizations (the lead's voice "is sturdy").

Leslie's review blends character detail with the actor's interpretation. For example, her line: "Stephen Lynch as Huck and Jeff Coopwood as Jim are so believable, you almost expect water marks on the cuffs of their frayed pants" contains much valuable information. In 24 words, the reader learns the names of the leading actors, the parts they play and the job they do with their parts. That's is darn good writing.

Even Jack Ragotzy, Barn owner/producer, was overjoyed with the review, as he told the audience in his pre-curtain appearance on the night I saw the play. As Jack said: "If I were a reviewer, this is exactly the review I would have written."

While his prejudice over the positive review is expected, his observation is correct. This is the way a review should be written. Send Leslie back to the Barn on all the opening nights.

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