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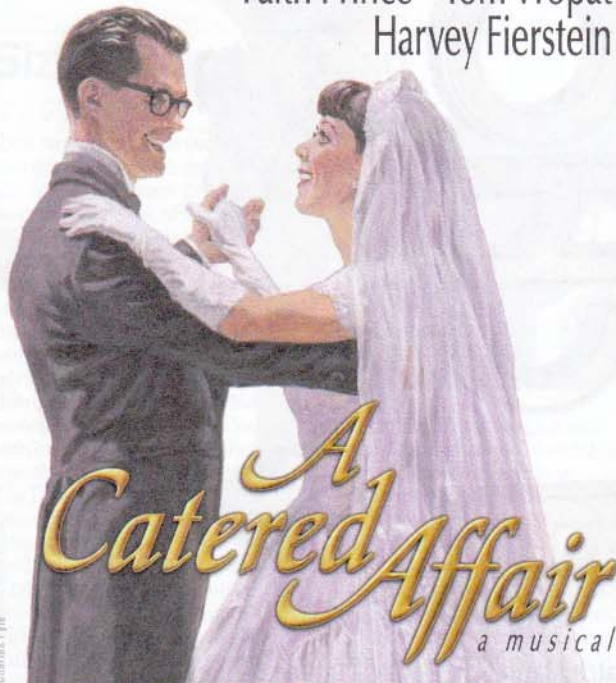
The MUSICAL

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## Kitty and Lina

★★★★★

**Manhattan Theatre Source** (see Off-Off Broadway). By Manuel Igréjas. Dir. Lory Henning. With Jennifer Boutell, Marilyn Bernard. 1hr 10mins. No intermission.

Manuel Igréjas likes to work on a small scale. The critically hailed *Shrinkage* (2004) consisted of a trio of one-acts; the new *Kitty and Lina* comprises two monologues—a pair of charming New York women strip themselves bare through words. But while the concept is slight, its execution is deeply affecting in the intimate Manhattan Theatre Source.

Texas-born looker Kitty (the comely Boutell) fancies herself a modern-day Marilyn Monroe and comes to the Big Apple in search of acting lessons and a Woody Allen-like paramour. Instead, she finds low-level day jobs, Shakespeare gigs in Inwood and a callous construction-worker boyfriend who manipulates her with calculated put-downs. Lina (the elegant Bernard) moved here from Portugal as a teen and carved out a career for herself in the male-dominated publishing industry using her smarts, her style and her sexuality (her two-decade-long affair with the boss first helped, then hindered, her success). Now a posh lady of a certain age, Lina feels invisible in a town obsessed with youth.

The only time the gals share the stage is at curtain call, yet their stories inform one another. Lina might envy Kitty's ripeness, but the young beauty is as lost and empty as her mature counterpart. They're both fascinating victims of a fast-paced city that routinely chews up and spits out its dreamers.—*Raven Snook*

## Best by day

**Thu** *Passing Strange*  
(See Broadway)  
Singer-songwriter Stew rocks our notions of race, identity and the musical.

**Fri** *Hostage Song*  
(See Off-Off Broadway)  
Tales and kicky rock tunes help two abductees forget their horrific situation.

**Sat** *Gypsy*  
(See Broadway)  
Patti LuPone gives a supernova star turn in one of the all-time-great Broadway musicals.

**Sun** *South Pacific*  
(See Broadway)  
You're sure to have some enchanted evening at this highly respectable revival.

**Mon** *Avenue Q*  
(See Broadway)  
The irreverent tuner still delights with dirty puppets and even filthier songs.

**Tue** *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*  
(See Broadway)  
This time, a black *Cat* means good luck—check out the dynamite, color-blind revival.

**Wed** *The Four of Us*  
(See Off Broadway)  
Frenemies face off in Itamar Moses's smart, tart comedy.



**PISTOL HOT** Bernard, left, and Boutell shoot for glory.