

Mark Nelson

review quotes

Cabaret, National Tour, Roundabout Theater Company:

“In the hands of Mark Nelson, Herr Schultz is the hero of this show: a sweet man, but a man of courage and conviction. The romantic dance he does with Shannon Cochran's Fraulein Schneider is wonderful, one of the truly human elements in the show.” *The Providence Journal*

“Mark Nelson's urgent performance of Herr Schultz makes the case that the relationship that drives 'Cabaret' is the one between the older couple. One of the sweetest, tensest and sexiest scenes on this stage or any other right now is between two fully clothed middle-aged actors holding a pineapple.” *The San Francisco Chronicle*

“Nelson's rich tenor resonates with passion and he imbues his part with a tender honesty that never becomes too sentimental.” *BroadwayWorld.com*

My Name Is Asher Lev, Westside Theater, NY:

“It helps, of course, to employ actors who can't help but tell the truth, no matter how many parts they play or accents they sport: Mark Nelson takes on not just Asher's father, but the rebbe, a secular artist mentor, and lively uncle Yakov. He's a machine, a master actor of the old school, with a seriousness of purpose that makes this rotisserie of roles feel natural, earned, all equally invested with different shades of the same passion.” Scott Brown, *New York Magazine*

“Mark Nelson is enthralling.” Anita Gates, *The New York Times*

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Hartford Stage/Paper Mill Playhouse

“What's so great about licking postage stamps, anyway? Audiences at Hartford Stage will be forgiven if they don't stop to think this through as Mark Nelson, playing the first of the four title characters, waxes rhapsodic about stamp-licking. His brilliant, show-stopping rant about the vanished joys of yesteryear bursts forth in a torrent that vanquishes any and all cavils.” Sylviane Gold, *The New York Times*

The Merchant of Venice, The Shakespeare Theatre

“Mark Nelson is a superb Shylock. It is on the strength of his moving and dignified turn that this 'Merchant' manages to cast a meaningful pall.” Peter Marks, *The Washington Post*

“Mark Nelson's Shylock is quite unlike any I have ever seen. Better, perhaps, than the others because he makes this complex character so human.” Susan Davidson, *CurtainUp*

“Nelson's portrayal is magnetic and heartbreaking.” *Washingtonian Magazine*

Underneath the Lintel by Glen Berger, Long Wharf Theatre

“Riveting. Nelson fills his philosophical Everyman with passion, regret, resilience, defiance and, finally, a transcendent joy. The performer and the play are powerfully human and ultimately sublime.” —Frank Rizzo, *Variety*

“Brilliantly delivered by Mark Nelson, so naturally right as the Librarian that it seems his birthright. Nelson's comic skills are above reproach, but his poignant moments are no less genuine. Though it's of paramount importance for the Librarian to stand up and declare that he has, in fact, lived a life, nobody in the audience would doubt it for a moment.” —E. Kyle Minor, *New Haven Register*

I Am My Own Wife by Doug Wright, Cleveland Playhouse & Coconut Grove

“A perfectly timed, completely assured performance by heroic actor Mark Nelson. This is a gigantic performance achieved through thousands of minute details coalescing into an irresistible force that commands every wet eyeball within seeing to see what life is all about.” —

Tony Brown, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

“Nelson’s interpretation of Charlotte and company is indisputably brilliant. Always, Nelson’s beautifully understated work comes from a place of warmth, artfully negotiated complexity and emotional truth. All of which adds up to a memorable, must-see performance in this play about a ‘woman’ who was her own greatest invention.” Christine Dolen, *Miami Herald*

“What Doug Wright’s play no longer drags around is the worry about whether any other actor could meet the expectations created by original star Jefferson Mays. Nelson is incandescent.”

Jack Zink, *The Sun-Sentinel*

After the Fall by Arthur Miller, Roundabout Theatre Company

“Worthy of special mention is Mark Nelson as Quentin’s friend Lou, a victim of the Communist witch hunt. Bristling with indignation and terror, Nelson gives a scorching performance that should be remembered at awards time.” Eric Grode, *Time Out*

“The poignant scenes between Quentin and Lou, flawlessly played by Mark Nelson, have a cutting honesty.” Marilyn Stasio, *Variety*

The Invention of Love by Tom Stoppard, Lincoln Center Theatre Company, 2001:

“Mark Nelson is superb, in a sharply etched turn as a civil servant that speaks volumes about what it was like to be gay in that time.” Ben Brantley, *New York Times*

“Mark Nelson, as Housman’s knowing office chum, is the evening’s lodestar of emotional truth.” Michael Feingold, *Village Voice*

AS DIRECTOR

Sarah, Sarah by Daniel Goldfarb, Manhattan Theatre Club

“A comedy-drama of the first order, as moving as it is funny. All I can tell you is that-- sovereignly acted as this is by J. Smith Cameron and Richard Masur under Mark Nelson's letter-perfect direction-- if your eyes remain dry, there must be something wrong with your lachrymal glands.”

John Simon, *New York Magazine*

Coastal Disturbances by Tina Howe, Berkshire Theatre Festival

“Sensitively directed by Mark Nelson, Howe's remarkable, impressionistic play is as meaningful and as intensely felt as the ocean and the shore.”

Ralph Hamman, *Berkshire Advocate*

Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin, Chautauqua Theatre Company 2005

“Chautauqua's production changed my mind about this play entirely. It was very funny, and also remarkably subtle, drawing out a multitude of tiny inflections of humor that I never realized were sprinkled expertly throughout the script. Director Mark Nelson has mustered a cunning, rich rendition of the comedy.”

Richard Huntington, *The Buffalo News*

The Seagull by Anton Chekhov, George Street Playhouse 1999

“Mark Nelson's prismatic staging, unfailingly sensitive to nuance, catches the quicksilver essence of Chekhov. Mr. Nelson's production is good for the soul.”

Alvin Klein, *The New York Times*

“Of the dozen or so productions of “The Seagull” I've seen in the last 32 years, I have never witnessed one as splendidly sure-footed as this.”

Peter Filichia, *The Star-Ledger*

June Moon by Ring Lardner and George S. Kaufman, Variety Arts Theatre, New York 1998

“Under the careful, affectionate direction of Mark Nelson, what initially seems like a quaint and corny curiosity starts to stir you in unexpected ways. Mr. Nelson, in getting his actors to trust in their characters as complete and complicated people, achieves something quite precious: a production that works beautifully as a blithe entertainment even as it makes it clear that this play can never really believe in its own happy ending.”

Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

“Mr. Nelson is primarily an actor-- he was the memorably obsessed Einstein in Steve Martin's “Picasso at the Lapin Agile.” It's now clear that he is also a director of control, spirit and imagination.”

Vincent Canby, *The New York Times*