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## audience reviews

### *Altar Boyz*, Runaway Stage Productions (Broadway Stage)

**Review:** I did not know what to expect when I went in to see Altar Boyz. I knew the talent, having worked with four of the five guys in previous shows, but didn't know how GOOD this show was to be. It is unlike anything else I have ever seen - the whole show basically done in real time as a Sacramento concert, the last one in the Altar Boyz tour. There is essentially NO backstage time for any of the performers, and the dancing, singing and all-around entertaining is non-stop. Needless to say, the energy exuded by the Boyz is amazing and it swept our audience up in no time. Doused in tongue-in-cheek humor, it has some truly poignant scenes as well, and I found my eyes were damp not just from the laughter, but from the tenderness as well. Many times in these reviews, certain members of the cast are singled out for an outstanding performance. I literally cannot do that. Every single one of the Boyz, in my opinion, were perfectly cast and they NAILED it - period. As Matthew, the leader, Scott Woodard brings a strength of presence to the stage and a beauty to the ballads he sings (i.e. "You Make Me Wanna Wait"). Joseph Boyette flat out brings the best performance I have EVER seen him do as Mark, who shares with the audience his struggle to finally come out of the closet and confesses his Catholicism. RSP veteran Ben Herrera is absolutely hysterical as Luke, bringing a street-wise edge to his character, and endearing himself to us in no time (LOVED the miracle rap, Ben!). Ever since I saw him in RSP's Les Miserables, the School edition, Tyler Robinson has impressed me with the beauty of his voice. As Abraham, the only Jewish member of the Altar Boyz, Tyler again brings the vocals that pull me in... along with a performance that nicely reflects the vulnerability of being "different" from the rest of the crew. All of these gentlemen I have worked with before - and watching Altar Boyz, I am proud to know each of them. I was equally impressed with Peter Giovanni, who plays Juan. What great comedic timing, great voice, and impressive stage presence. He made the audience feel for the Spanish-accented orphaned Juan who tries to make the best of the disadvantages life has dealt him. With a great band, solid directing, and some FABULOUS choreography (you go, Darryl Strohl!), you will not want to miss this incredible show that makes you truly look inside to confirm what you really believe.

### **Review:** Altar Boyz, Runaway Stage Productions (Broadway Stage)

review: This musical is full of laughs, great dancing, and high energy. The play is about 5 guys who sing for Christ! Will they "alter" your mind? With the band set up on the stage ( good idea ), we feel like we are at a concert. The characters are fun to watch and root for, and we root for ourselves to be saved. A very funny and entertaining show , with especially great acting from Scott Woodard and Joseph Boyette.

**Review:** This show is everything you'd expect from RSP: great performances, great direction & choreography, bad sound (humming, feedback, band too loud). The Boyz are each hilariously and specific in their characters (and obviously well cast - I mean Joseph Boyette playing GAY?!?). They sing well together most of the time and make the most of their solo moments. They're also really cute. I can probably count on 1 hand how many times one of them was out of step with the choreography (challenging, creative, exciting). They were clearly well-rehearsed and excited to do this show. The lighting during musical numbers was spectacular-spectacular! The scenes weren't as well lit. But overall the show is a winner!!!

**Review:** FANTASTIC show! Each of the boys were perfectly cast! They each brought such a unique personality to the stage, and made for one outstanding group that could rival any professional boy band. The choreography was fantastic, and at times very funny! This was the best lighting I have seen at Runaway. It added so much to the show. The onstage band was fantastic and I loved that they were made to be a part of the "concert!" If you need a fun night out, this is the show for you! Well done Boyz!

**Review:** I had a great time at this show. This is a strong cast and a good production. The clear stand-outs were Tyler Robinson and Joseph Boyette, but the rest of the boys did not lag far behind. Go see it!

**Review:** Unfortunately I was expecting a lot more. Enjoyable when you accept it for what it is. Runaway should consider reducing the price of their tickets. Price will be a consideration when looking to attend shows in the future.

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