

**RATED**

**FOR PARENTHOOD**



## **THE MUSICAL**

**A SHOW FOR PARENTS AND ANYONE WHO'S HAD THEM**

**Book and Lyrics by  
SANDY RUSTIN**

**Music and Lyrics by  
DAN LIPTON & DAVID ROSSMER**

### **PRESS KIT INCLUDES:**

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# **PRESS KIT**

# INFO ABOUT



## ABOUT THE SHOW

*Rated P (For Parenthood)* chronicles every stage of modern-day parenting, from conception to college, with giant doses of heart and humor. A versatile cast of four takes the audience through the ups and downs of childrearing—from the sublime to the ridiculous—in a series of comic and musical vignettes in under 90 minutes. Hilarious, fresh, and decidedly irreverent, *Rated P* provides all the wistful joy of childrearing...at a fraction of the cost of braces!

*Variety* called *Rated P (For Parenthood)* “a small scale, audience-friendly, eighty-minute Off-Broadway revue formulated with a close eye to sitdown engagements across the land. One can imagine regional theaters full of audiences screaming with laughter.” A real crowd pleaser and a critical hit, the show has also resonated with tastemakers in New York, where it was hailed by the likes of Katie Couric (“CBS News”), Cindy Adams (*New York Post*), Suze Orman (international TV personality and author), Harvey Weinstein (Oscar-winning movie producer) and Samantha Bee and Jason Jones (“The Daily Show”).

### **RUNNING TIME:**

Approximately 80 minutes, with no intermission

### **AUDIENCE:**

May be inappropriate for 12 and under. (Language)

## ABOUT THE WRITERS

**SANDY RUSTIN** (*Book & Lyrics*) is an actress thrilled to be making her debut as a writer! As a performer she appears regularly in UCB’s “Gravid Water” (Time Out NY: “Best Improv Show”); *Don’t Quit Your Night Job*; and *Improv Everywhere*. Favorite NY credits: *Modern Orthodox* (New World Stages), *I Love You, You’re Perfect...* (Westside), *Jolson & Company* (Century Center), *Sarah, Plain and Tall* (Lortel), Neil Simon’s *Hotel Suite* (Roundabout). TV includes: “The Scariest Show on TV” (Comedy Central), “Law & Order; SVU”, “As the World Turns”, “All My Children”. Northwestern University graduate. Co-Artistic Director of Midtown Direct Rep ([midtowndirectrep.org](http://midtowndirectrep.org)). [www.sandyrustin.com](http://www.sandyrustin.com).

**DAN LIPTON & DAVID ROSSMER** (Music and Lyrics) are longtime collaborators whose original musical comedy *The Blonde Streak* is currently in development at *Broadway Across America*. Other projects include the musical satire *JOE!* and *Matchbook* (based on the best-selling memoir) for Araca Group. Their rock musical *Notes to MariAnne* was at NY Stage and Film, the O’Neill Center (Hollof Award for lyrics) and NAMT 2011. They’ve written special material for Kelli O’Hara (*Always* album), Sutton Foster (*Joe’s Pub*) and co-created the off-Broadway comedy improv hit *Don’t Quit Your Night Job*. [Trappedinamusical.com](http://Trappedinamusical.com)



Pictured (clockwise): Courtney Balan, Chris Hoch, David Josefsberg, Joanna Young; Photo: Carol Rosegg

# A HIT WITH CRITICS

“A small scale, **audience friendly**, 80-minute Off-Broadway revue.

One can imagine regional theaters full of **audiences screaming with laughter.**”

—VARIETY

“This show is **SWEET AND WISTFULLY FUNNY**, even for audience members who have never known the challenge of 3am feedings.”

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

“**LET’S JUST SAY I GOT MY AB WORKOUT FROM LAUGHING SO HARD!**”

—BROADWAYWORLD.COM

“**FUNNY, SMART, TRULY BRILLIANT.**”

—WOR Radio

“*Rated P* is a rarity; incessantly funny, consistently thoughtful, full of heart - and never once hits a dull chord. It’s one not to miss. **CALL YOUR MOM** and tell her all about this A+ musical!”

—THEATERMANIA

“**This clever musical is right on the mark.**

**IT DESERVES AN ‘A!’**”

—NY1 Television

“From conception to college, *Rated P* shines a humorous light on the pleasures and perils of modern-day moms and dads. The multitalented cast of four triple-threat performers easily transition from character to character, delivering a non-stop barrage of hearty laughs.”

—WCBS Radio

“**CLEVER, FUNNY, AND TOUCHING.** For most of the show, I was either dabbing tears from the corners of my eyes or mopping them off my cheeks as I laughed hysterically. **GO SEE THIS NEW SHOW!**”

—PARENTS MAGAZINE

# A HIT WITH CELEBRITIES

**“*Rated P* is one of the best Off Broadway plays I have seen in a long time. Parents especially **THIS IS A MUST SEE, GREAT.**”**

—Suze Orman (International TV Personality and Author)

**“A DELICIOUS FAMILY-ORIENTED, KID-ORIENTED, UNCLE AND AUNT-ORIENTED, GRANDMA AND GRANDPA-ORIENTED ROMP.”**

—Cindy Adams (New York Post)

**“*Rated P* is great fun for parents and teenagers alike. For anyone who has gone through having kids and seeing them grow up, **THIS IS A MUST SEE.**”**

—Harvey Weinstein (Oscar-winning Movie Producer)

**“When you can’t get tickets for *The Book of Mormon*, go see *Rated P* instead. You will not be disappointed, and you can thank us later.”**

—Samantha Bee & Jason Jones (“The Daily Show”)

**“GREAT OFF-BROADWAY SHOW!!!!”**

—Katie Couric (“CBS News”)



Pictured (above): David Hyde Pierce, Katie Couric;  
(right): Suze Orman

# A HIT WITH AUDIENCES

**“The play is AMAZING! The dialogue is witty, the music is catchy and the actors are great. The show is funny because it’s true.”**

**—MARIANN, MARIANN ABOUT (PARENTING BLOG)**

**“Genuinely kind-hearted, thoughtful and HILARIOUS, had my husband doubled over with laughter!”**

**—SHERI, Dusty Earth Mother (Parenting Blog)**

**“IT’S FUNNY AND UPLIFTING.”**

**—PATTY CHANG ANKER, FACING 40 UPSIDE DOWN (PARENTING BLOG)**

**“Sometimes funny, sometimes touching and constantly engaging and entertaining, in fact I went to see it with my mom, and if you get the chance I’d advise you to do the same. Be it your mom, spouse or your bestie, I’m sure you’ll be poking each other in the ribs and laughing together in no time!”**

**—TRACEY IGLASIAS, ASCENDING BUTTERFLY (PARENTING BLOG)**

**“Hysterical... and spot on. SO TRUE. (I think they’ve been spying on my parenting.)”**

**—COLLEN, A MADISON MOM (PARENTING BLOG)**

**“A great date for parents because you’ll get to look back at some of the moments you’ve experienced from the outside and finally recognize how funny they actually are. . . I LAUGHED SO HARD.”**

**—LYSS STERN, DIVA MOMS (PARENTING BLOG)**

**“What an awesome show!”**

**—MILENA, BEYOURBESTMOM.COM (PARENTING BLOG)**

**“Rated P is so stuffed with music and comedy that just under 90 minutes felt as if it ripped by in a neatly trimmed half hour.”**

**—Cranky Critic (Entertainment Blog)**

# SELECT PRESS CLIPPINGS

## THE STAR-LEDGER

**“THE PRICE OF A NIGHT OUT IS WORTH IT FOR ALL THE LAUGHS AND TERRIFIC TUNES.”**

### “‘P’ is for Perfect”



Joanna Young in “Rated P . . . for Parenthood” at the South Orange Performing Arts Center.

New musical at SOPAC seems destined for Broadway

By Peter Filichia  
FOR THE STAR-LEDGER

Here’s a musical revue to bridge the gap between “I Love You! You’re Perfect! Now Change!” and “Menopause.”

The first smash-hit told about the dating game that singles endure before they “settle down.”

The second long-running show gave a look at what women experience when they reach birthdays in their fifties.

For many people, the years in between involve parenthood. So here’s a musical that starts with the birth of a child and continues until the kid is dropped off at college.

It’s a great idea – and writers Sandy Rustin, Dan Lipton and David Rossmer have done it proud. Too bad that “Rated P (For Parenthood),” is only playing at the South Orange Performing Arts Center this weekend. But we’ll hear from it again. This, the first production of the new company known as Midtown Direct Rep, deserves to go directly to midtown Manhattan.

Lipton and Rossmer’s music sharply uses hard rock for “Push It All Out,” in which a woman is in agony while giving birth (while her husband’s only discomfort is her squeezing his hand). “Think that was hard?” the other two cast members ask. “Now the real hard part comes.”

Can any parent claim otherwise? Given that all three writers collaborated on lyrics, only they know for certain who’s responsible for this smart comment. Whichever one it is, take a bow.

Of course, in-laws have their own opinions about child-rearing. Here Rustin’s incisiveness in sketch-writing is especially keen, for the first words she has visiting grandparents say is not “Hello,” but “Where’s the baby?” that’s soon followed by a worried, “What’s that on top of his head?” Yet only the rarest of young parents in the audience won’t nod in recognition when one father sings, “Thank God for grandma, because we need the moolah.”

And on through the years we sail. Rustin has a truthful running gag on how much – or how little – parents tell their children about sex.

It may seem like only yesterday that they were asking “Where did I come from?” but now it’s “Did you two do it before you were married?” And speaking of sex, when a growing kid is right there in the next room, there isn’t as much as there used to be, is there?

Plenty of tender moments come between the hilarity. Two fathers who are watching their kids at the playground want to start a conversation and even a friendship, but each is afraid to make the first move. And if anyone doubts that Rustin has a marvelous imagination, witness a sketch between the Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus. They mourn being “out-of-work” because the kid that used to believe in them is now too old to swallow their stories.

What a talented foursome that able director Jeremy Dobrish has recruited. They’re all equally valuable in both song and story, so listing them in alphabetical order is the only fair way to name them: Courtney Balan, Bradley Dean, David Josefsberg and Joanna Young.

The guys shine in a sketch where two gay fathers ruminate on their raising three heterosexual (and randy) teens. Balan shows the frustration of a mother with a Ph.D. in English who can’t help her son do today’s eighth-grade math. When playing the parent of a teenager, Young makes her pronouncement, “You are not going to a beach party on a school night in January” even funnier than it inherently is.

Dobrish brings in the show at a mere 80 minutes, which speeds by – just as a son or daughter’s childhood does.

The brevity helps in another way: Parents of young children won’t have to pay a babysitter any overtime. But the price of a night out will be worth it for all the laughs and terrific tunes.

Peter Filichia: [PFilichia@starledger.com](mailto:PFilichia@starledger.com)

# SELECT PRESS CLIPPINGS

## NY1

“...‘RATED P...’ DESERVES AN ‘A’.”

March 10, 2012

### **Rated P (For Parenthood Review)** By Roma Torre

And finally, as a mother of a son in his freshman year of college and a high-school aged daughter just learning to drive, I and others of my ilk are the target audience for a little off-broadway show called "Rated P (For Parenthood)". Having been there and done just about everything a parent could imagine I have to say this clever musical is right on the mark.

Written by Sandy Rustin with music by Dan Lipton and David Rossmer it's theme based featuring some two dozen songs and scenes depicting various key moments from birth to college...and as directed by Jeremy Dobrish, it's staged for maximum comic effect. The multi-talented quartet of performers is excellent mastering the broad humor and the more sensitive numbers. ...Those of us engulfed in the agony and ecstasy of child-rearing should find that "Rated P..." deserves an "A".



Pictured: Joanna Young;  
Photo: Carol Rosegg

# SELECT PRESS CLIPPINGS

## THEATERMANIA

**“So be prepared to want to CALL YOUR MOM by the end of the night. You may want to thank her for everything she’s done for you — and you’ll DEFINITELY WANT TO TELL HER ALL ABOUT THIS A-PLUS SHOW.”**

By Iris Wiener • Mar 1, 2012 • [New York](#)

*Rated P (for Parenthood)*, the new musical comedy currently making its Off-Broadway debut upstairs at the Westside Theatre, is a rarity: it's incessantly funny, consistently thoughtful, full of heart -- and never once hits a dull chord.

Featuring book and lyrics by Sandy Rustin, with music and lyrics by Dan Lipton and David Rossmer, the show takes audiences through many of the trials and tribulations that make parenting a surprising adventure -- from pregnancy to prom and beyond -- through a series of relatable vignettes filled with colorful humor.

The music explores all genres, from Rap in "Parent Teacher Conference," a ditty about fathers calming their nerves before speaking with their kids' teachers, to Country in "Tick Tock," a group number about being proud that your kid can do menial tasks (because it proves that you're not a f\*\*k-up).

Lipton, Rustin and Rossmer's lyrics are clever, cute, and creative, and easily accessible to men and women of all ages, whether or not they have kids of their own. Who doesn't remember the first time they drove or going to mom for help with homework and not getting a straight answer. Every number pokes fun in all the right places.

Using just a few props and small costume changes, the cast of four is masterful at embodying a slew of characters, ranging in age, sexuality, and persona. Courtney Balan and Joanna Young took on a range of moms, from one interviewing at preschools to one who is excited to drop her child off at camp so that she can be intimate with her husband. Balan was at her best when she gets a bit loony performing "Driving in D Minor" as she lets her son take her for a drive.

Chris Hoch was hysterical as Dad enamored with "The Game" of football on Sunday afternoons, much to his mischievous daughter's delight. The standout amongst this quartet, however, was David Josefsberg, who brought down the house with his penchant for hilarious character work. Whether he's down-with-it when he's rapping, hunched over as an old man, or videotaping his teenage daughter at her first job, his unique talent for getting laughs in all the right places is one not to miss.

Jeremy Dobrish's direction is commendable and intelligent, and he never once loses the attention of his audience. Steven Capone's scenic design is simple, yet as bright as the show itself. Blocks of color adorn the backdrop, coordinating well with the equally basic, yet pleasing costumes by Emily DeAngelis.

So be prepared to want to call your mom by the end of the night. You may want to thank her for everything she's done for you -- and you'll definitely want to tell her all about this A-plus show.

# SELECT PRESS CLIPPINGS

## WCBS RADIO

**“SHINES A HUMOROUS LIGHT ON THE PLEASURES AND PERILS FACING MODERN DAY MOMS AND DADS.”**

Stuart Lewis

2-16-12

From conception to college, *Rated P (For Parenthood)*, now at the Westside Theater, shines a humorous light on the pleasures and perils facing modern day moms and dads. Teachers, tooth fairies, homework, and prom dates are but a few of the topics touched upon in this delightful romp presented in a rapid paced format reminiscent of the best comedy variety shows. Without ever missing a beat, the multi-talented and terribly endearing cast of four triple threat performers transition from character to character often mid scene during a non-stop barrage of hearty laughs and poignant tenderness. By evenings end its likely that most everyone in the audience will want to go home, pick up the telephone, and call their parents, not necessarily to say I love you, but to apologize for all the madness they have put them through over the years. *Rated P (For Parenthood)* at the Westside Theater. I'm Stuart Lewis with The City Life on WCBS 880



# SELECT PRESS CLIPPINGS

OFFBROADWAY.COM

**“*Rated P* is sure to touch a chord with audience members of all ages.”**

**RATED P (FOR PARENTHOOD)** is a new musical revue chronicling the 21st century joys and frustrations of raising children, from bleary-eyed late night feedings and private school kindergarten interviews, to nail-biting driving lessons and prom night.

Over the course of thirteen songs interspersed with sketches, the talented cast tunefully covers the timeless travails of the parenting years – from birth to the empty nest – in ninety minutes. And each member of the cast gets an opportunity to shine. Courtney Balan shines in a musical prayer to her late mother about sending a child off to school for the first time, as well as the comic realization of when you realize you can no longer help your kid with his homework. Joanna Young sings a disarming lullaby to her little boy and later plays a hilariously sullen teenager. Among the other highlights are a sketch with Chris Hoch and David Josefsberg as a couple of playground dads awkwardly trying to forge a friendship. The very funny Josefsberg later releases his inner rock star as a dad who can’t wait to drop off his kids at camp and to hop in the sack with his wife.

Whether you’re in the midst of your parenting years or if those days are a distant memory, **RATED P** is sure to touch a chord with audience members of all ages, eliciting chuckles of recognition and maybe even a tear or two of remembrance.



Pictured (left-right): Chris Hoch, Joanna Young, Courtney Balan, David Josefsberg; Photo: Carol Rosegg