



## KIDNAPPING LAURA LINNEY

*MU Productions at the Dorothy Strelsin Theatre as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival*

Philip Mutz's *Kidnapping Laura Linney* is exactly the type of fluffy fun one always hopes to find in festivals but so rarely does.

After struggling actor-writer Josh (Mutz) writes a sitcom about two regular Joes whose hobbies include plotting the kidnapping of Laura Linney, he, his roommate Steve (Chris Critelli), and Steve's girlfriend Carla (Alley Scott) all head west to become huge TV stars. But Linney and her lawyers aren't amused, and so Josh decides to kidnap the Oscar nominee for real. It's all silly, non sequitur-laden fun, particularly the impromptu sing-along to "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid*—though the glimpse we get of Josh's sitcom does make us wonder how it could have possibly been picked up, at least until an NBC letterhead is flashed.

Mutz and Critelli have a refreshingly genuine rapport as friends and roommates, and the Laura-themed songs between scenes are inspired. One hopes the real Laura Linney will find herself charmed, not litigious.

*Presented by MU Productions as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival at the Dorothy Strelsin Theatre, 312 W. 36th St., NYC.*

*July 16–Aug. 2. Remaining performances: Thu., July 17, 6:45 p.m.; Sun., July 20, 8:30 p.m.; Wed., July 23, 8:30 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 1, 9:15 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 2, 5 p.m.*

*(212) 279-4200 or [www.ticketcentral.com](http://www.ticketcentral.com).*

**Reviewed by Mark Peikert**

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