



Carrie showcases
young talent at its best

Description

In The Wings Promotions delivers another successful rock opera

By Byron Toben

June 15, 2022

In The Wings Promotions, headed by **Noelle Hannibal**, has become the go-to local group for rock opera concerts. After well-received versions of *Chess* (2015), *The Who's Tommy* (2015), *Hair* (2017) and *Hedwig and The Angry Inch* (2018, 2019), it recently led a return to live theatre after the long COVID hiatus with a May 2022 production of *Carrie: The Musical* at the **MainLine Theatre**.



Based on a novel by best-selling horror author **Stephen King**, it

would seem an unusual choice for a musical, but it worked thanks to **Michael Gore's** music, **Dean Pritford's** lyrics and **Lawrence D. Cohen's** book.

In a nutshell, it deals with a bullied teenage girl, Carrie (**Mary Francis Kobelt**), whose anger swells to convert her angry gaze into deadly rays that proved fatal to classmates at the prom.

Superman's X-ray vision could only penetrate covers, but this goes way beyond that. Such is the nature of sci-fi horror fiction. The result – the prom ended up with more dead bodies than in *Hamlet*.

Ms. Hannibal plays a key role as Carrie's mother and excels as she is a professional actor and singer of note. She is also a darn good casting director, as a dozen young amateurs were found and groomed to perform well.



With a four-piece on-stage band (keyboard, drums, guitar and bass), the stage in this intimate venue was rich with sound and group movement. Much of this is due to director/choreographer **Nadia Verrucci**, herself a talented actor,



singer and dancer who, in recent years, has added the two other skills to her C.V.

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Also, in her director's message in the program, she explains how she managed "Zoom" choreography and rehearsals during a background of ever-changing mask rules. Perseverance pays off to result in this 'doozy.'

Carrie: The Musical played at the MainLine Theatre from May 5 to 14.

Images: courtesy of In The Wings Promotions

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Byron Toben, a past president of *The Montreal Press Club*, has been *WestmountMag.ca*'s theatre reviewer since July 2015. Previously, he wrote for since terminated web sites *Rover Arts* and *Charlebois Post*, print weekly *The Downtowner* and print monthly *The Senior Times*. He also is an expert consultant on U.S. work permits for Canadians.



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Date Created

June 2022