

From: President <[REDACTED]>

To: Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: comments about the review on Facebook

Date: Thu, 19 Dec 2013 10:32:37 +0000

Not at all. You misunderstand my position. First we can agree to disagree; even the NYT review admitted that it was entertaining. After all your claim was in my view extreme: that no one smiled or liked it or was moved. Second is this about mistakes? If it is there is no doubt I have made a mistake. If you want me to list all of them I am happy to. The trouble is that most of what I try fails; the percentages of real success are so low. So I admit I have been wrong.

But consider the context of this argument. You lead with a complete trashing, laced with humor. I scramble to rescue some shred of self regard in the wake of a performance.

I admit that my defense of this piece has failed. I however do not see works of music as zero sum items of right or wrong. About the audience and the enterprise do you think it is easy to concede twenty years as a failure?

And if you think I always think I am right you are mistaken. You yourself have witnessed how shaken I am by your withering criticism and even mockery. I even remember saying directly to you that you were right. I am admitting that you are right by seeking your help to do something new. Give me a break to take away some scraps from the wreckage.

Leon

Sent from my iPhonei

On Dec 19, 2013, at 1:01 AM, Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

yes , by someone in the orchestra. . self aggrandizing , self indulgent, filled with the usual paternal instincts did not need an audience to have the same exact view...no need to force audiences to sit through a black man singing as i said non german (i myself picked it up and i am not fluent by a long shot). a failed stand up routine , not one reviewer , not one audience member , that i myself could see, twinkled , nodded smiled. at the parody, pun, story line, but the girls in the chorus. the violinist on stage, found this public display of infection. worth the effort, had their way of thinking forever changed, (even cage can make the claim). a high brow can- can with no costumes and inside jokes. . chosen , out of hundreds of alternatives, tickets even at the 25 dollar level , still unwanted.and as i saw outside , they could not be given away for free. I beleive that as a teacher of the community you have a right to make mistakes as your endeavors are driven by a pure heart. but frankly and this concerns me greatly, you have yet one time to admit (at least to me) that you have made a mistake. not one time.

On Thu, Dec 19, 2013 at 12:45 AM, President <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: December 19, 2013 at 12:35:38 AM EST

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: comments about the review on Facebook

Robert Zubrycki

The back of my head made the NY Times, along with the mezzo soprano tattoos...

I'm sorry that this critic wasn't persuaded of any pressing need to add "Feuersnot" to the repertory. This fantastic music certainly deserves to be heard - and the plot is entertaining!

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/19/arts/music/strauss-feuersnot-via-leon-botstein-at-carnegie-hall.html?_r=0

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**Adria Benjamin**

Ah, Ms. Fonseca-Wollheim, you've got it wrong again...
the beauty of this score is reason enough.

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