

■ Millbrook Playhouse review

One-man cabaret show 'Fully Committed' is fully hilarious

By RACHEL MAZZA

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Actor Tim Dietrich once again delivers a side-clutching performance, this time as Sam Pelicowski... and as 40 other quirky characters in the one-man, one-act show, "Fully Committed."

Sam is an aspiring actor who currently works in the basement office of a high end restaurant manning the reservation line a week before Christmas.

Sounds relatively simple, right? Well, Sam's day is anything but.

After being informed of the alleged car troubles of a co-worker, Sam is forced to take on callers anyone in the service industry would dread to encounter.

They are all annoying, they are all ridiculous and they would all like to make a reservation at Manhattan's number-one restaurant that is booked and "fully committed"

until March.

On top of that, Sam is coerced into many awkward, embarrassing and downright awful situations by the head chef who would put many drill sergeants to shame.

Things really start to pick up as the show progresses and Sam's day continues in a downward spiral of comical confusion when guests start showing up who are not on the list, the callers become even more manic and then, there is an incident in the ladies' toilets...

The seniors at the Wednesday night preview seemed to especially like the elderly caller who was dissatisfied with everything at the restaurant when she did not receive her senior discount.

As the show draws to a close, one almost wishes the hilarity would continue awhile longer so the audience might see the result

of that particularly entertaining last reservation.

Dietrich, a Millbrook favorite from his role as Rick in "The Nerd" last season, really gives it his all for this challenging performance.

What could be confusing and hard to follow, is artfully played and wildly hilarious as Dietrich quickly switches (at the press of a phone button) between 40 different people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, social classes and genders and completely throws himself into each character as he carries out both ends of the conversation. With so many different personas, its amazing he remembers what comes next!

The deliberately messy set was a total change from last week's swanky hotel in "Bellhop." The small office with delightfully tacky Christmas decorations allows the audience to get up-close and personal as Dietrich stomps, skips, paces, and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Tim Dietrich gets all tied up in the Millbrook Playhouse cabaret show, "Fully Committed."

struts around the stage. "Fully Committed" continues tonight, then runs July 7 - 11.

Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, July 11. Contact the box office for

times and ticket information at 748-8083 or www.millbrookplayhouse.com.