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**THEATER**

# JET's 'Diary of Anne Frank' powerful

**REVIEW**

Robert Starko as Otto Frank commands respect as a man of dignity and decency. He could not turn out Mr. Dussel (Marty Bufalini) a dentist with no place to hide or the family of his business associate Mr. Van Daan to the Nazi dragnet. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre's own artistic director, Evelyn Orbach, plays Mrs. Van Daan as a materialist who clings to the fur coat her father gave her and flirts pitifully with Otto Frank. She squabbles incessantly with her husband (Robert Grossman) and they both harp at their son, Peter, played by Daniel Kahn whose portrayal rings authentic from his reclusive moodiness to his unruly shock of dark hair.

Those in hiding may sometimes have squabbled like greedy kids at camp when dividing their meager food. They may have bickered, complained, and succumbed to moments of fearful hopelessness. Perfect they were not, but alive, feeling, and loving people, they were. Although their lives may have been condensed and constrained by fugitive circumstances, their humanity was not diminished, and JET's superb production excels in bringing that humanity to touching, vibrant life.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writing classes and works as a freelance writer.

**TRAVEL**

# Feeling lucky? You could win a trip to Las Vegas

Tell us about the luckiest thing that ever happened to you to win an overnight package to Las Vegas for two, Dec. 12-13, courtesy of Hamilton, Miller, Hudson & Fayne Travel Corp. in Southfield.

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Limit your entry to 50 words or less. Include your name, address, and a daytime telephone number. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4. Send or fax entries to: Keely Wygonik, Taste/Entertainment Editor, Observer, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax your entry, call (313) 591-7279. For more information, call (313) 953-2105.

You must be 21 or older to enter. The winner will be notified by phone on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

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