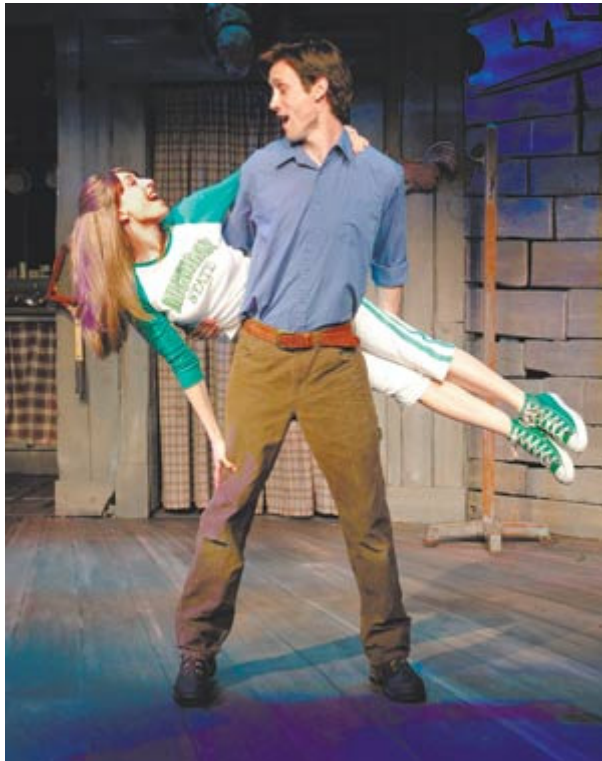




Camp and gore galore

Evil Dead: The Musical brings splatter to the B-movie matter



TARA MACRI AND RYAN WARD ENJOY PRE-CANDARIAN DEMON LIFE IN EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL.

Evil Dead: The Musical Lives on! Based on **Sam Raimi**'s classic horror B-movies, the show, returning after an off-Broadway run, traces the adventures of five college kids who visit an abandoned cabin in the woods and engage in gory afterlife shenanigans.

Except for the chainsaw-wielding hero, Ash (**Ryan Ward**), they all turn into Candarian demons. But while all the elements of the horror genre are in place (backwoods locals, cleavage, dismemberment and a plot as vague as primordial ooze), the show is more campy than scary.

Eighties dance moves, boobs and a possessed cabin provide ample distraction from the vapid monster-mash of a storyline.

An amalgam of the two Evil Dead movies and their sequel, Army Of Darkness, the plot of this ridiculous, ironic musical takes a back seat to the actors' tireless moonwalking and a cappellas.

Rachel Fischer as Cheryl recreates the punning, menacing demon in the floor to an almost disturbing degree, while **Tara Macri** as Linda, Ash's girlfriend, combines naïveté and hysteria as smoothly as maggots working their way through a corpse.

The cabin itself becomes a compelling character that mimics Ash's deteriorating mental state by completely falling apart.

There's lots of gore onstage (you can smell the industrial-strength cleaning fluids during intermission), so be sure to wear black to the best damn dead theatre event of the year.