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Momming Around

October 26, 2005

By Anthony Del Valle

She's a mom who's really involved in the PTA, and she's also a comic who frequently works in adult clubs, so that explains the T&A in the title of Carole Montgomery's 60-minute one-woman show "Confessions of a PT&A Mom."

The 45-year-old Brooklyn native takes us on a journey from her childhood, to her first-love days, to her adventures on the road as a woman in a man's profession, her

marriage, her sudden desire to have a baby and a permanent home, and her adventures in rearing a child.

Of course, there are a lot of yucks along the way, but what's surprising about Montgomery is her ability to keep you more concerned with her story than her jokes. When she talks about how giving birth to her son changed her life, she doesn't need jokes to keep you with her. She has the gift of being able to put the audience on her side.

Director Sue Lawless keeps things even-keeled and dramatically structured. The show has a beginning, middle and very satisfying end, which is unusual for standup shows here.

The material -- written by Carole and husband Todd -- could use a bit updating. At times you feel as if you've heard all of this before decades ago on "The Ed Sullivan Show." But watching Montgomery's professionalism up-close in a small three-quarters round theatre should be a must-see for anyone who wants to learn a thing or two about timing and presence.

(The Community College of Southern Nevada's "Confessions of a PT&A Mom" plays 7 p.m. Nov. 13 and 20; 8 p.m. Dec. 2, 3 and 9 at the BackStage Theatre, 3200 E Cheyenne Ave. Tickets: \$5-\$8. Info: 702-651-5483)

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An Evening With... "The Constant Gardener"

November 21, 2005
 On December 2, Back Stage West continues our exciting "Evenings With..." program by offering a free screening of *The Constant Gardener* in Los Angeles. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with actor Rachel Weisz and the film's director Fernando Meirelles.

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