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Culture Monster

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Theater review: 'Hoboken to Hollywood' at the Edgemar

November 2, 2010 | 3:00 pm

It's a mass seduction. A guy saunters in, snappily attired in a single-breasted charcoal suit. Setting aside his fedora, he turns his sexily hooded eyes to the audience and, as the band strikes up, emits a dreamy baritone.

The clock speeds backward and, ring-a-ding-ding, the audience at the Edgemar in Santa Monica finds it's been returned to an era of swinging, swanning hipness.

Technicians scurry, cameramen train their lenses. Theatergoers are the studio audience for a program titled "[Hoboken to Hollywood](#): A Journey Through the Great American Songbook." Its headliner is a crooner whose name is never mentioned but who is introduced, at one point, as the Chairman of the Board. The audience knows who he is, despite the pains taken to avoid breaching the perimeter securing this singer's carefully controlled legacy.



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