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# CHARLIE

CELEBRATING PROGRESSIVE CULTURE IN CHARLESTON

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## *Perfectly Normel People*

We'll be the first to admit that it doesn't take much to make our tiny little hearts swell: good wine, great food, Mac products. But right near the top has to be when amazing, talented locals realize their dreams. Sitting in the final (for now) sold-out performance of *Perfectly Normel People* at Footlight, we had ginormous, geeky grins on our faces, from the presence of the Blessed Mother Mary, to the silent-but-deadly-lovable Pops, to the reunion of teenage love. Plus every Italian stereotype that one dinner table in center stage can fit. It's hard to tell who the show-stopper was.

We immediately fell in love with Hadley, a.k.a. "Lefty," played by Daniel Radcliffesque CofC student Bronson Taylor. Frankie (Tripp Hamilton) is a contender for sure, with his second-nature delivery and huge knockers. And let's not forget Connie Normellino (Paulette Bertolami), who would remind you of your own mother and has a pretty good arm.

But, we think we'd have to choose Johnny, played by director and co-writer, Thomas Burke Heath. In a Queens' version of Kenickie, Heath rocked the role of the loud, obnoxious Italian stallion, resulting in only soaring laughter from the audience. In their second original play to hit Charleston stages, Thomas and his wife/50 Most Progressive alum, Judy, know how to feed a large crowd.

It's official. Paisans for life... Our arty barometer says: *Don't wear a belt!*

-Jessica Kenny