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BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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New Broadway Musical On Johnny Cash: Clueless?

I've been sort of intrigued by *Ring Of Fire*, the new Broadway musical that uses the music of Johnny Cash in a revue to tell his life story. Why? Because it got good reviews out of town and it's created and directed by Richard Maltby Jr, a veteran theater composer with good taste. But then I see this crazy, clueless quote from him on the thousands of songs he had to go through for the show:

"I was looking for songs in which there was talking, and he wrote more of those than I originally thought. I knew I had to use the really famous ones, like 'A Boy Named Sue,' 'I Walk the Line,' and 'Folsom Prison Blues,' or people would be upset. For the rest, I looked at the content to see how funny or sexy or moving the songs were. *I know some people don't expect the music of the 'Man in Black' to be any of those things.*

Huh? People don't expect the songs of country icon Johnny Cash to be funny or sexy or moving? Is he insane? Now I'm wondering if Maltby ever listened to Cash -- or any country music -- before doing this project.

POSTED BY MICHAEL IN NEW YORK AT 7:30 PM



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