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ROCK OF AGES

The Broadway equivalent of a ride on a mechanical bull. Constantine Maroulis stars as a bar-back in late-eighties Los Angeles who just wants to rock, and rock hard. In truth, the plot—kudos for even having one—is really just a chain of segues into the hits of Styx, Journey, and Twisted Sister, with toy lighters available for anyone who feels the urge. Chris D'Arienzo, who wrote the surprisingly clever book, knows how to make his audience howl: by keeping the guitar anthems and the Reagan-era references pumping. But the show's secret weapon is Mitchell Jarvis, who, as our faithful narrator, Lonny, has all the antic energy of a Jack Black with nunchakus and a mullet. Is there a Tony Award for badassery? (Brooks Atkinson, 256 W. 47th St. 212-307-4100.)