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How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Magic Circle Theatre

Review: I think that this is one of the BEST show's I've ever seen at Magic Circle. David McDaniel is a wonderful and charming Finch, while Ashley Mortensen brings some life and spunk to the usually boring Rosemary. David Garrison plays a hilarious Bud Frump, while Kari Pruitt brings sarcasm and great stage presence to Rosemary's sidekick, Smitty. One of the shining moments is Keri Newton playing the adorable Hedy La Rue. Keri is fantastic! Go see this show...don't miss it!

- Michael

Review: Normally I am a big fan of Magic Circle. As a season ticket holder I see each and every show that they put on. This show is very enjoyable despite some of the worst directing I have seen in quite some time. Thankfully the actors have enough talent to shine despite the limitations imposed upon them. As usual, the scenery and costumes are below par, but that is to be expected from this particular company. The vocal talent is great, the orchestra is sufficient, but the choreography is dull in parts and repetative in others. However, the talented actors will delight you with their performances. Obviously the leads are the cream of the crop, but the supporting cast are enjoyable too. This is a great show, performed well. Go see it. But when, oh when, will Magic Circle get some new blood in the directors chair? Or the choreographers too for that matter?

- Amber

Review: "Amber" must not have seen the same How To Succeed... we saw. It is one of the best choreographed shows I have ever seen at Magic Circle. For once, they have a core group of cast members who can actually do the choreography and not just one or two they put in front

who can dance to hide those that can't. As someone who has actually read the book on which this musical is based, I have to say that the director brought out all of the humor and sarcasm of the book. That to me says the director knew exactly what he was doing! I have seen one too many productions of this show where the cast takes the show too seriously. The cast had fun and you could see it! David Garrison who plays Bud Frump is perfectly cast as the nepotistic nephew of JB Biggley, played elegantly by Richard Spierto. Another highlight for me is the beautiful and perky Keri Newton as Hedy LaRue. I saw her in Sweet Charity a number of years ago and just love her as a performer. Ashley Mortensen (Rosemary) and David McDaniel (Finch) nearly brought the house down on Saturday night with their duet, "Rosemary". Times are tough enough for community theatre these days and it is becoming harder and harder to maintain a core audience without someone who sounds as if they have a bad case of 'sour grapes' spouting off negatively about a perfectly wonderful show like How to Succeed. Go see this show! You'll thank me for it.

- M. Deane

Review: I too saw H2\$ and agree with bits of both the reviews above mine. I enjoyed this production very much and yet thought it could be more. I thought the singing, dancing, and acting were very nice. While the directing is mediocre, it is normal Magic Circle fare. If you've enjoyed their previous productions this one will not disappoint. If you are used to higher quality shows and theatre companies (Runaway for example), then you will be disappointed. I too agree that costumes and sets are woeful as usual. But in the end what is important is this: Did I enjoy the show? Yes. Should you go see it? Yes.

- S. Munoz

Review: My husband and I went to see this last weekend and it was awesome! I haven't laughed that hard in years!!!! The cast you put together was spectacular, and the chemistry on stage between ALL the actors was absolutely perfect. I was especially impressed with David Garrison as Bud Frump. That boy has some major talent! He had us laughing constantly with his antics on-stage, and he was such a delight to meet after the show as well! You have real gold with this cast and production, as always. I have been coming to shows at the Magic Circle for 15 years, and I have yet to be disappointed in anything you do. Looking forward to the rest of the season!

- Jennie Svogar-Edwards

Review: Two Words: DAVID GARRISON. Oh my god. Do not miss this

show! I saw him in A Chorus line where he played a completely different role, actually started to cry, or bawl on stage. He had me crying so hard and then in How To succeed I was crying because I was laughing so hard. He's absolutely brilliant. He's so going places. (magic circle needs better sets though)

Review: The show was very entertaining. Every actor brought something unique to the overall performance. It was wonderful to see Keri Newton back on stage. With her talent, beauty and humor she made a perfect Hedy Larue! Her performance was second to none. There wasn't a dull moment in the entire play. We have been to a couple of Magic Circle's shows and this was probably our favorite.
- The Flynns

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