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## audience reviews

### *The Music Man*, Davis Musical Theatre Company

**Review:** There was a major problem with the casting of this show, in that four key performers were far too "on in years" for the roles they were playing. I know the romance between Marion and Harold Hill is supposed to be somewhat May/December, but isn't the actor playing Hill well into his 50's? Also, Hill's friend Marcellus appears to be the same age. Actors in their late 30's to early 40's would have been more appropriate. Likewise, Mayor and Mrs. Shinn are supposed to be the parents of a girl in her mid teens, yet the actors playing the Shinn's look far too mature for that. All performances were competent, however. Sometimes, though, that's not enough.

**Review:** We saw this show last weekend, and what a delight it was! Some of the best vocals I've heard on a community theatre stage in a long time. I agree that some of the actors are a bit older than their characters are supposed to be, but as with most musicals, one has to suspend their disbelief no matter what. I found the performances quite wonderful. Marcellus is very funny, and the barbershop quartet's harmony is spot-on. Particularly enjoyable were the characters of Mayor Shinn and Mrs. Shinn. Wonderful comedy there. Both leads were wonderful actors and I completely believed their performances. There are over 50 people in the cast, and I didn't hear one sour note among them. The scenery is minimal, but appropriate. All-in-all, this is one of those shows that you will be glad you attended. I highly recommend it.

**Review:** The Music Man is my favorite musical of all time. Although I have watched the movie many times (and I own the DVD), I had never had the opportunity to see it staged until recently. DMTC's production was, as usual, amazing. Each actor or actress had their strong points. I would especially like to give Kudos to Laura for her excellent singing and acting as Marian Paroo. Lenore Sebastian was absolutely perfect in her role as Mrs. Paroo and her husband Gil was a great Mayor Shinn. Just as with many of the roles portrayed in this show, it differed from the original, but they all added a bit of themselves to the role and it really paid off. One perfect example is Paul Fearn as Marcellus. I have had the privilege of seeing Paul in many roles at DMTC, each time putting a bit of his own personality into the role and this is no exception. Paul fit into Marcellus fantastically and I must admit I've never seen better dancing from him. Of course, who could forget the versatile Mary Young, who's played just about everything. She is a marvelous Mrs. Shinn, fitting into the character like a glove. And now we come to the star of the show, the Music Man himself. One could tell Rand worked very hard on this show and he does a fabulous job. From a visual perspective, he was the perfect Harold Hill, everything from his dancing down to the facial expressions was

spot on. However, there were a few occasions when entire lines were forgotten and the singing was sub-par. In general there was a major projection issue as far as singing goes for Rand. At first his voice wasn't even that musical, but he got better as the show progressed and by the time he got to "Til There Was You" he sounded much much better. As a music major, I am always inclined towards the musical side of shows and therefore it is my opinion that for Rand, more time and practice should have gone into the vocal aspects rather than the visual ones. Of course Rand is redeemed by Laura's amazingly beautiful voice. She is the epitome of what good singing should be. Great projection, great tone, great rhythm, etc. I even think Laura should be nominated for an Elly, she was that good. Oh, and speaking of singing, I think DMTC is very lucky to have such a talented Barber Shop Quartet as the gentlemen playing the School Board members. Frankly, I think it couldn't have been better if the Buffalo Bills themselves had performed. But then, I am a sucker for B-Shop. To conclude, I think the casting was fine. Age has nothing to do with casting, only ability. This was a dance heavy show and all those cast in dancing parts were excellent dancers. Most of those with singing parts were phenomenal singers. The costumes were great, the orchestra sounded great, the lighting was great. It was another fabulous DMTC show. This is the only review I have written for this show. (and I think the first review I have ever written on Seeaplay.com) Thanks for reading,  
-Adam Sartain

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