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audience reviews

The Nun Crashers, Lambda Players

Review: Kudos to the cast and crew for putting this together in such a short time. In addition to the great singing and dancing, the storyline and innuendoes were hilarious. There were times when my friend and I were trying not to laugh because we thought it would be too distracting to the cast. Will see it again and highly recommend to others.

Review: If you are looking for a Christmas Miracle you needn't look outside of Sacramento. The Lambda Players production of Nuncrashers-A Christmas Musical is truly a delightful little show that overcame some amazing obstacles. Before the show begins and as you sit in the beautiful new Lambda theater you may open the Nuncrashers program to find a note from the collaborative directors David-Matthew Barnes and Peter Giovanni. Late script arrivals, musical malfunctions and half of a frustrated cast leaving only 10 days before the show's opening you might find it amazing that any show would survive at all. Left with half of a cast of committed community theater actors, David-Matthew Barnes used his skill as a writer to come up with a new script in 24 hours. This factor blew me away as I knew I was sitting in a community theater, where actor's are volunteers and have other commitments outside the theatre. And how does someone write a script worth any merit in 24 hours? From the moment veteran actress Bethany Hidden-Cauley as Sally Anne opens her mouth to sing her rendition of "Johnny Are You Queer?" all doubts disappear. She is truly a thrill to watch onstage. Roya Bryant delivers a comical punch as the sassy Rita. Her vocal numbers range from the endearing "Do You Hear What I Hear?" to the powerful and soulful "Proud Mary". Mahlon Hall Greenhalgh as Father Birkenshire proves as a triple threat and can hold his own on stage as he delivers his comedic monologue while eating Christmas Brownie's. Moments between Father Birkenshire and Walter during "Santa Baby" will have you laughing in your seat. Vincent Chiesa played a tender Trevor, the Father's "Cinderfella." All the men including the choreographer Peter Giovanni deserve a resounding kudos for the creative dance "What if God Was One of Us?" The show stand out was Joseph Ramos who committed to his role as Johnny. Every song, every dance, every fantastic scene of his was delivered with incredible honesty and zest. And congratulations to the writing efforts of David-Matthew Barnes. Dealing with such themes as Catholic School boys, a homosexual priest, and frustrated girlfriends dressed as nuns may be important for community awareness but could also come across as over-the top obvious for shock value. But what I saw on stage tonight was precious, innocent, and loads of fun. And during these times we could all use some of that in our lives. I'm not sure if this play came to be because of the spirit of a few community theater actors, the will of the directors, or the sweat of the behind-the-scenes crew of believers.

But I do know that tonight I was inspired by a miracle. The love and spirit of theater is manifest in "Nuncrashers". Go and see it!

Review: I saw this tonight and it was hysterical. Bethany Hidden as sally Anne is a riot and her side kick nun friend that saves the day "Rita" gave a musical performance that was equal to the comic timing of Miss Hidden. A great time. What a surprise, all this humor and music and it's not even Christmas yet. Altho a holiday show it's much more then just some tired old tradional songs. Comedy mixed with easily recognised songs make this a must see several times i already bought more tickets.

Review: This was a very enjoyable Christmas themed show. The script was light and fun and the music was a combination of Christmas and old standards. All the performances were very good in the final dress rehearsal that I saw. I would definetly recommend this show for a fun night out!

Review: I had the opportunity to see the Preview Performance last night and I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised. They were to originally perform the Nuncrackers, Christmas Musical but this was far better and funnier. I enjoyed myself and from the response of those around me it seemed to be well received by all. Very funny, great music selections and a talented cast. Who would have imagined that this show was written in 24hours after 6 of and original cast of 12 dropped out only 2 weeks prior to the opening night. Again, if you have a chance to see it, don't miss out.

Review: I saw the show opening weekend with one of my good friends who knows a few of the actors on stage. While I went to watch a musical comedy, I couldn't have imagined enjoying the show as much as I did. The dialogue from beginning to end is filled zingers that'll put a smile on just about anyone. From "Johnny, are you queer?", "Santa Baby", to the heavy "One of us" each of the performers on stage get a moment to shine and a moment to make you laugh, smile, or sing along! Kudos to Ben Clinton, Roya Bryant, Bethany Hidden, Joseph Ramos, Vincent Chiesa, and Mahlon Greenhalgh for putting on a exciting show with only 10 days of rehearsal! The directors, choreographers, and stage crew are to be commended as well! Bravo Lambda Players for giving us a winner!

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