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audience reviews

Escanaba in da Moonlight, Stage Nine Theatre

Review: I have finally stopped laughing. This show is a bit gross but so funny. The ensemble cast did a great job. A little trouble on the lines for a couple but also heard tonight that they lost two weeks of rehearsal time. No matter...take the trip to Escanaba!

Review: This play is hilarious. Low-brow, screwball humor can sometimes be pulled off, this being one of those times. For the most part, the actors created a rare and zany charm. On opening night, the audience's enjoyment built steadily until riotous laughter was almost continuous. This is one play to see, more than once.

Review: We saw Escanaba Friday night. A terrific production! The cast nailed it. We know the play (and movie) quite well, have seen it in several productions. The StageNine cast did a marvelous job of creating the characters, staging them with lots of panache, humor, and energy. Timing is so crucial in this play and the cast didn't miss a beat. I can't single out a member of the cast because they all gave their best. Stan Bautista, though, probably elicited a great deal of the belly laughs from the audience. His character, Jimmer Meganamee, is outrageous. Stan captured Jimmer beautifully. It's not an easy role. But Mike Jimena, as Albert Soady, Ron Randolph as Reuben Soady, Jim Rollins as Remnar Soady, and Steven Read as Ranger Tom Treato, together Stan, created the wonder chemistry. Jeff Bridges' play truly exemplifies Yupper culture in Escanaba, a town I visited often in the 50's. I'm a Sierra Nevada redneck, so I fit right in the Upper Peninsula culture of Michigan. I grew up and hunted with the California counterparts of the Soady's. Watching the play in the talented hands of the StageNine cast was like a homecoming for me. Sean Mitchell, who has appeared on the StageNine stage, made his directorial debut with Escanaba. He really brought it to life. everyone should see it. Incidentally, Jimmer is a gas-filled hunter and breaks enough wind to bring down the house. The women in the audience laughed as hard as anyone in response to the windy environment. I asked one of the women afterward at the reception about the windy display because I didn't know women liked fart jokes. She said, are you crazy? Women love the displays and jokes as long as they're not within firing range.

Review: Highly recommend this creative comedy and the cozy venue on Sutter Street in Folsom. It was a pleasant surprise having seen many Broadway productions, we didn't expect to see such quality on our little town. We laughed and enjoyed the story line. Everyone can relate to the unique characters and

setting. Get a ticket before the show is over!

Review: We laughed so hard our cheek muscles were aching when we went to the reception afterwards! Simple humor, much appreciated in these times, and the perfect little theatre to see it in. You'd never know these are amateur actors - there wasn't a missed line or cue, even though it was opening night. Highly recommended - I know we'll see it again!

Review: I truly enjoyed Escanaba in da Moonlight. I had never seen the movie so I had no perceived notions. I have not attended many plays, but I have always enjoyed the performances at Stage Nine Theatre. This pretty much male ensemble did a great job. Mike Jimena bounced back and forth from narrator to actor with ease. The transition was quick and simple and did not distract from the scenes. Jim Rollans was a kick in the pants as Remnar. He rolled out those line with ease and always kept you wondering what he would say next. Ron Randolph did an excellent job as Reuben. He exuded his emotions appropriately for each scene and you just could not help but feel for his character. I could even see him tear up in one of the scenes. The scene stealer was truly Jimmer played by Stan Bautista. All I can say he was truly a gas!! I would recommend this play if you want a hearty chuckle. I laughed all the way through it.

Review: My wife and I didn't even know that the Stage Nine Theatre was in Folsom for the past 2 years and we live here! I saw the review of Escanaba in da Moonlight recently in the Folsom Telegraph and we just had to go! What a riot! We laughed until we got home. Jimmer is hilarious and something happened to his Chevy but I can't say it here. LOL!! I don't know how Reuben can keep his eyes open for soooooo long without blinking. Stage Nine has a comfortable, cozy friendly atmosphere. So far we bought tickets to see 3 other shows. Great show, great acting, great place and we can't wait to see the next play.

Review: It was super! TINY theatre, but this 5 man play was very enjoyable! We laughed a LOT.

Review: My daughter and I truly enjoyed this play. We left the play feeling very happy that we experienced a play that was so very humorous. The cast were professional and we were amazed at the authentic setting for the play. We wish nothing but success for the cast and their play.

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