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audience reviews

The Great American Western, Susan Madden and Jill McMahon Present

Review: If you are tired and run down and your computer viruses are giving you a headache go see this play. It won't fix your computer but it will give you some much needed comic relief. The Great American Western is an old fashioned, very silly, wild west musical spoof. It starts when Carrie Nation and her band of "gin is sin" crusaders drive the sheriff out of town and a masked stranger and his Indian companion arrive in town just in time to apply for the job. The cast is packed with former Elly winners and nominees and they're all good singers. Or at any rate if any of them aren't good I was too busy having fun to notice. The songs are old favorite tunes, most with updated lyrics. There are a couple of outstanding duets between the Lone Ranger and Tonto (who could as well be named Big Chief Teddy Bear) and a knock-your-socks-off Machiavelian country western number Get It While You Can by the girl named Sioux. Tonto also provides a memorable moment of whatever the opposite of comic relief is. His speech about black blood coming out of the earth is sobering and gives the audience a chance to reflect and breathe before jumping back into the barrel of monkeys. There are sordid secrets and a mystery to be solved and a whole new meaning to "cleaning up the town." It's a hoot. Go see it.
- Christy

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