



Theatre Review

By Neda Heeter

"The Bikinis," is a fun-filled party

Riverside Theatre opened its 2014-2015 with a fun-filled 60's musical beach party that had the audience smiling and reminiscing.

"The Bikinis" is based on the true story of Briny Breezes which is located in Palm Beach County, Florida. It's a private mobile home coastal community on State Road A1A.

The musical follows a fictional female singing group that agrees to reunite for a benefit concert to raise money for the residents of Sandy Shores Mobile Home Beach Resort, which is threatened by an offer from a developer who has offered to buy the property from the residents in order to build condos on their property.

The manager of the mobile home park, Annie (played by Valerie Fagan) comes up with a plan to provide the residents another option. Her plan involves reuniting her girl group, The Bikinis, for a benefit concert. The Bikinis claim to fame is that they won the Belmar Beach Talent Contest 20 years ago wearing just their bikinis.

The cast also includes Joanna Young as Jodi, Katy Blake as Barbara, and Karyn Quakenbush as Karla. The Bikinis is directed and choreographed by Ray Roderick.

The show features many wonderful hits including "It's In His Kiss," "Yellow Polka Dot Bikini," "Heat Wave," "Under The Boardwalk," "These Boots Are Made For Walking," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," "The Twist," "Look What They've Done To My Song," "When Will I Be Loved," "I'm Every Woman," "I Will Survive," "It's Raining Men," and more.

The entire performance takes place on a simple set invoking the beach. The actors change costumes on stage throughout the production usually by adding an accessory or two to set the mood beautifully. Not to be overlooked is the band that performs on the stage with the actresses. They are all top notch.

“The Bikinis” is a high energy show that evokes a lot of memories while telling the girls’ story through the music of several decades. The songs are well choreographed, even right down to the hand gestures. The audience was engaged right from the first number and remained engaged until the closing number.

“The Bikinis” performs October 28-November 16, 2014 on the Stark Stage at Riverside Theatre. For tickets call the Box Office at 772-231-6990 or online at www.riversidetheatre.com.