



INDIAN RIVER

Press



Journal

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Nothing depressing about Depression-era musical comedy 'Crazy For You'

"Amazing."

"Awesome."

"Fabulous."

"He's like Tommy Tune."

"I feel like dancing!"

Those are some of the comments overheard in the lobby of the Riverside Theatre during intermission at Tuesday night's opening of "Crazy For You."

If you are a fan of musical theater you will like this exuberant musical comedy, which features the music of George and Ira Gershwin.

The show tells the story of Bobby Child, played by Drew Nellessen, a banker with an overbearing mother played by Eve Plumb, who would much rather be a song-and-dance man. Set during the Depression, Child is sent to Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose on a theater. Instead, he strives to save the theater and falls in love with the theater owner's daughter played by Abby Church.

With the grace of Gene Kelly and the comic physicality of a young Jim Carrey, Nellessen is brilliant in the lead role as Bobby Child. His lanky good looks and soft shoe and tap talents are just a few of the reasons for the Tommy Tune comparison.

As the lovelorn Polly, Church's effortless rendition of "Someone To Watch Over Me" had the audience swaying in time. I could almost feel the memories dancing in their collective heads.

Plumb's stage time is brief but impressive. Almost unrecognizable as the older, domineering mother dripping in shimmering sequins and luscious furs, theater goers gave her a quick burst of applause when she first appears on the stage early in Act I.

Plumb was not the only cast member to be gifted with magnificent costumes. From the vintage suits and hats and Depression-era dresses to dazzling feathered head-dresses, the costumes and



GINNY BEAGAN

REVIEW



IF YOU GO

What: "Crazy For You"

When: Through Feb. 1

Where: Riverside Theatre, 3250 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach

Cost: \$35 to \$82

Tickets: www.riversidetheatre.com or 772-231-6990

costume designers also are stars in this production.

You would never know that tap dancing has become a lost art from this play. For my money, tap is the most joy-filled dance there is and this company's choreography, enthusiasm and joy were infectious. Act I closes with the talented ensemble tapping to a colorful, high-powered, showstopping rendition of "I've Got Rhythm." With the energy of the number still lingering in the almost 700-seat theater, I turned to the stranger beside me, gushing.

"It couldn't be any better in New York," he said.

He should know. Michael Anania is a New York City-based set designer who has been working on Broadway since 1980. Anania designed the sets for "Crazy For You," which morph seamlessly from Depression-era New York City street scenes to an empty desert town.

It boggles the mind to think that this production rehearsed for only 12 days. That speaks volumes to the level of talent and professionalism of both the cast and the crew.