

Arts & Entertainment

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Weston's "Ain't Misbehavin'" Not to Be Missed!

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PHOTO HUBERT AND JAMES SCHRIEBL

Dambrose Boyd and Dennis Stowe. WESTON, VT. "Ain't Misbehavin'", lighting up the Weston (VT) Playhouse stage through July 16, is transporting audiences to the golden age of Harlem, the Cotton Club, stride piano jazz and red-hot mammas belting out hit after hit by the legendary Thomas "Fats" Waller. If you love the excitement of classic Ameri-

can jazz/pop music, the saucy energy of Broadway song and dance, the joyful fun of sexual innuendo, and the splash of big-time theater sets, costumes, lighting—the whole schmeer—you don't want to miss this one! Based on 30 of Waller's well-known songs with a stellar five-person cast and a solid, pulsat-

ing three-piece combo, the revue-style show has nary a dull moment as it bounces from Waller's classic love songs ("Two Sleepy People", "I Can't Give You Anything But Love"), to rollicking anthems ("The Joint Is Jumpin'", "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie") to serious laments ("Black and Blue", "Mean to Me") and even a few of his pure chuckles including "Your Feet's Too Big" and "Fat and Greasy!"

Director/choreographer Jim Weaver's production maximizes the considerable talents of singer/dancers D' Ambrose Boyd, Joliet Harris, Tracey Conyer Lee, Joy Lynn Matthews-Jacobs and Dennis Stowe. If a cast could exude more pure joy in performance, more exuberance from beginning to end, we'd like to see it! Voices, faces, hands and feet, they gave us all they had and more! They even brought the audience in to sing along with several numbers. Our audience clearly loved them, jumped up to a standing ovation, and left the theater abuzz with melodies and a joyous mood.

Music Director Darryl G. Ivey played "Fats" to a "r" at the piano, supported by Louis Farnon bass and Bomji Choi on percussion. Making the evening a feast for the eye, the

handsome, retro feeling set and lighting by Russell Parkman and Jack Mehler were top class. And Karen Ann Ledger's costumes out of the 1920s and 1930s were sensational! Smart, sophisticated, colorful and dynamic! When was the last time you heard an actress garner gasps of appreciation as did Matthews-Jacobs when she simply walked on stage sparkling in an electric-blue satin dress set off by a rhinestone studded jacket all draped in furs?

Weston offers an excellent stage notes performance guide online at www.westonplayhouse.org with hard copies for sale at the box office. Reservations for "Ain't Misbehavin'" and the popular after-show Act IV Cabaret (throughout the run of "Ain't Misbehavin'" featuring Weston's talented Young Company performing the work of Joe Iconis, one of the country's most exciting young musical theater composers), and dinner at the Playhouse's Café at the Falls restaurant may all be made at the Playhouse Box office, by calling 802-824-5288 or by visiting the website. New at Weston this year is a convenient elevator making the lower level restaurant and cabaret theater accessible.