

'Five Guys Named Moe' bursts with music, fun, color

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When they start to beat it out
Everybody jump and shout
Tell me who do the critics rave about
Five guys named Moe

High brow, low brow, all agree
They're the best in harmony
I'm telling you folks you just got to see
Five guys named Moe

Well, that excerpt from Larry Wynn's lyrics says it all! This musical — and these five guys named Moe — make everybody jump and shout! If you miss it, you'll miss one of the great fun evenings in theater!

Based on music performed by early American rhythm and blues artist Louis Jordan, and the good-humored, often poignant, comedy routines Jordan developed to go with his signature songs, "Five Guys" is a two-hour hurricane of hilarity. And wonderfully entertaining songs including "Early in the Morning," "I Like Them Fat Like That," "Pettin' and Pokin'," "Saturday Night Fish Fry," "Let the Good Times Roll," "There Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens," "Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying," and, of course, "Five Guys Named Moe."

"Five Guys" is loosely organized around the alcohol and woman troubles of Nomax (played by C. Mingo Long) and the efforts of the five guys to set him straight through song, dance, down-home humor and related high jinks. In fact, it's about the music and the amazing "Jordanesque" showmanship of No-



The five guys of "Five Guys Named Moe"

Moe (Erick Pinnick who also serves as dance captain), Big Moe (Andre Montgomery), Little Moe (Kaldon LaVar Price), Four Eyed Moe (Jerome Lucas Harmann) and Eat Moe (Korey Jackson). And if you can find five more talented guys who can deliver these funny, fun and fabulous songs with anything like the infectious energy they do, go see them tonight! It'll do you good!

The band, led by pianist Ron Hackel and including Ian Lowe, keyboards, Jeremy Clayton, reeds, Daniel Timmermans, trumpet, and Brad Carbano, percussion, matelass the Moes

note for note in Rhythm and Blussooty! But it's not just a feast for the ears and heart. It's a visual explosion launched from a bluesy, jazzy set inspired by the work of African-American painter Jacob Lawrence, a contemporary of Jordan's, that seems to say that everything is possible and that imaginative variations are required. Once Nomax's problems with women and drink are laid out and the Five Guys magically appear, the somber palette turns sensational for the rest of the show.

Five bold guys in bright, red pin-

striped suits, crazy checked, striped and dotted black and white shirts and yellow ties take over with non-stop dancing, singing and comedy riffs that may have dimmed the lights in the rest of Vermont.

They make it easy to see why Chuck Berry said, "I identify myself with Louis Jordan more than any other artist." Why B.B. King said Jordan was remarkable because "he was so far ahead of his time. What he was doing became the origins of rap. He was rhyming things that nobody else was able to do. I idolized his talent." And anyone who has seen Ray Charles, James Brown or B.B. King perform will also see that they lifted whole pieces from Louis Jordan.

Sammy Davis Jr. said it best when he said Jordan "was the first recording artist to project life and situations of the Black Community on records with humor and dignity. I, and many others like me, have dropped nickel after nickel in the jukebox to enjoy his messages in song and monologue. Mr. Jordan was the original soul brother."

"Five Guys Named Moe" rollicks on through July 23 with evening performances at 8 p.m. (7 p.m. on Sundays; Mondays dark) and also matinees at 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, Wednesday, July 20, and Saturday, July 23.

The Weston Playhouse Box Office is open Tuesday through Sunday noon to 6 p.m. (or until intermission on performance nights), and phone orders are accepted at (802) 824-5288. For more information, visit www.Westonplayhouse.org