

# Weston's 'Five Guys Named Moe' is high-caliber fun

**WESTON**  
The Weston Playhouse Theatre Company's "Five Guys Named Moe" is a superlatively enjoyable song and dance show that isn't much of a play.

But like other hits from the New York stage in the tradition of "Smokey Joe's Café," "Forever Plaid," "Suds" and "The Decline and Fall of the Entire World as Seen Through the Eyes of Cole Porter," "Five Guys" is a perfectly

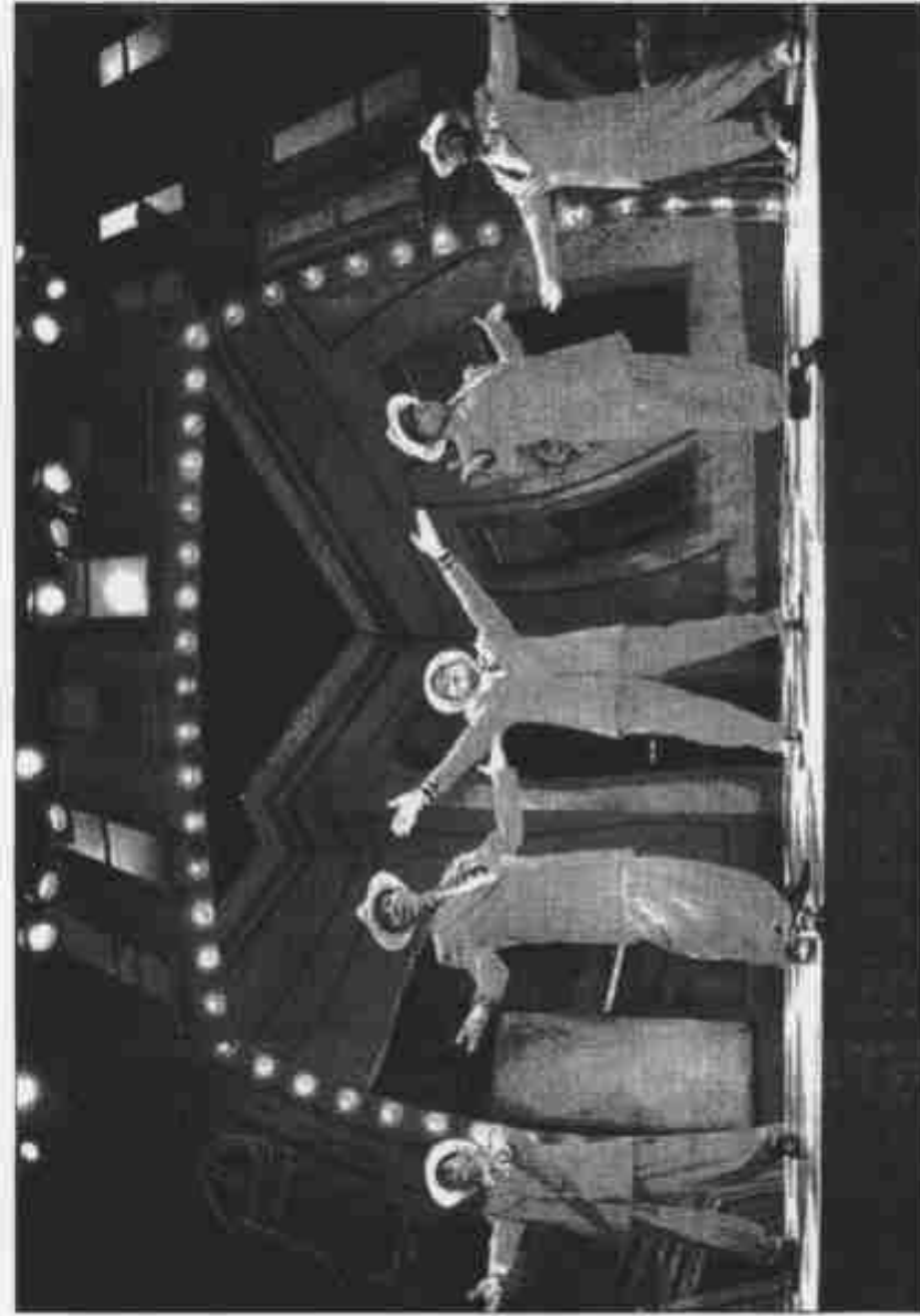
## REVIEW BY WILLIAM MENEZES

legitimate excuse for a cast sing and dance their hearts out through an evening of great songs.

The improbable story, by Clarke Peters, is just a flimsy excuse to showcase two dozen songs composed by the legendary "king of the jukeboxes" and saxophone great Louis Jordan. All his hits are stylishly danced and expertly sung by the Weston cast. The result is a perfect entertainment for the summer theater fan.

"Moe" revolves around a drunken Nomax, who is despondent over the fact that his girlfriend has just given him the gate. In the throes of despair Nomax is visited by five razzle-dazzle Moees who magically appear out of his radio.

It is No-Moe, Eat-Moe, Big-Moe, Little-Moe and Four-Eyed-Moe's task to coax Nomax out of his funk, set him on the straight and narrow, and get his girlfriend back. But in the long run it is a wonderful excuse to "Let the Good Times Roll." All six performers are terrific singers and top-notch dancers, who are ably supported by a snappy jazz quintet led by pianist Ron L. Hackel.



Robert Scharf

The Weston Playhouse Theatre Company's dazzling "Five Guys Named Moe" continues through July 23.

Jordan's songs hold the all-time record for top 10 rhythm and blues hits. Many social historians credit him as

one of the founding fathers of Rock 'n' Roll. Often charting the foibles of humanity, his bluesy songs are jazzy, impish, clever and satirical.

"Five Guys" is awash with those tunes that still resonate today. Songs like "Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying,"

"Hurry Home," "I know What I Got" still tug at the heart. "Caldonia," "Choo Choo Ch'Boogie," "Saturday Night Fish Fry" and "There Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens" will have you snapping your fingers, tapping your toes, and tempting you to get up dance,

which as it turns out you can do by joining the Five Moees and Nomax on stage and around the theater to the catchy

calyпсо sing-along, "Push Ka Pi Shi Pie."

This "big bang" of song and dance numbers is enhanced by the talented cast that director Tim Fort has assembled.

To the role of Nomax, C. Mingso Long brings strong musical chops and sympathy to a character that could have been just surly and self-pitying.

The five Moees are the embodiment of their names. Andre Montgomery's Big Moe is unexpectedly agile and commands the stage with a twinkle and formidable presence. Erik Pinnick does a wonderfully suave and sophisticated turn as No Moe. Little Moe is portrayed with contagious exuberance and energy by Keldon LaVar Price. Jerome Lucas Harman's Four-Eyed Moe is smooth as silk. Korey Jackson as Eat Moe is a swinging hep-cat that captures the spirit of the evening. All six performers are the very soul of an ensemble cast.

Much of this should be credited to Fort, who orchestrates the performance with a deft touch. He not only makes good use of the stage but the house and audience as well.

Jim Weaver's choreography knits lively and high-spirited dance routines throughout the evening. Russell Parkman's flexible set is a big plus. No straight angles to be seen anywhere lend a jazzy, woozy and surrealistic edge to the production that enhances every tune. The move from Nomax's apartment is a revelation. As you might imagine, Irma Somogyi's costumes are just down right fun and compliment the set and action. Michael Lincoln's lighting sparkles.

"Five Guys Named Moe" is must see for anyone who loves the music of Louis Jordan and for anyone who just likes a good old fashioned musical revue.

The production runs through July 23. For more information and tickets call the Weston Theatre box office at (802) 824-5288 or visit [www.westonplayhouse.org](http://www.westonplayhouse.org).

William Menezes reviews local theater for the Arts & Entertainment section.