



The Weston Playhouse, Weston

Weston

Rowe Calls Weston Playhouse Five Guys Names Moe "Red Hot"



By Stephanie Rowe,
Message Theater Critic

Everything about *Five Guys Named Moe* is red hot. From the jazzy, athletic dancing to the stylish presentation of songs by Louis Jordan and, most particularly, the gleaming red zoot suits worn by the five singers.

There's a sizzling band led by Ron L. Hackel and a set by Russell Parkman that looks like it's melted from the heat created by the energetic quintet whose charismatic performances entertain with showmanship of colossal proportions.

This musical, now on stage at

the Weston Playhouse, doesn't pretend to have much of a plot.

The story is a framework to showcase such Louis Jordan songs as "Early in the Morning," "Saturday Night Fish Fry," "Caldonia," and "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby."

C. Mingo Long plays Normax, a drunk whose girlfriend has thrown him over when he forgets her birthday.

When he stumbles home in the early morning, bemoaning the loss of his lady, he reaches for solace from another bottle and from his radio.

But the radio erupts and out pop five guys to cajole, comfort,

mock, and advise him on how to get his life back on track.

Long's vibrant voice is welcome back to the Weston stage.

Brick Pinnick plays No Moe, Andre Montgomery is Big Moe, Keldon LaVar Price is Little Moe, Jerome Lucas Harman is Four-Eyed Moe, and Corey Jackson is Fat Moe.

These performers make a wonderful cast using the Jordan songs to tell the story.

Choreography by Jim Weaver is creative and high spirited while Tim Fort's direction keeps the entertainment breezy and sparkling.

Audiences enjoyed being part of

a conga line that ended Act One. Lyrics to "Push Ka Pi Shi Pie," a calypso, floated down from the ceiling and were handed out by the cast and soon everyone was singing along and joining the dancing.

Five Guys Named Moe has blues, jazz, doowop, and bebop, and more. It's easy to see how rap music may have its roots in the music of Louis Jordan.

The show's humorous highlight was "There Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens" featuring a bushy tailed fox in a hen house. Silly antics and romantic ballads round out an evening of fun.

The show runs until July 23.