



Minimum number of actors; maximum amount of entertainment

South for an afternoon and evening of good theatre

WESTON — Saturday, July 9th, was a long day. The rain made it seem even longer. But interspersed among the rain showers there were two fine productions, the matinee show at Weston Playhouse, and the evening show and Dorset Playhouse.

Five Guys Named Moe is the current production at Weston Playhouse. It celebrates the music and the performance of a man named Louis Jordan, who was an important early rock-and-roll performer/writer, and whose career spanned the period from 1930 to 1975.

First of all, the songs themselves were as bright as the sets and costumes from production. More about those in a moment. The songs - Caldonia, There Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens, Let the Good Times Roll, Push Ka Pi Shi Pie, Choo Choo Ch' Boogie, and Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying were all familiar and the show bounced along merrily. There is a frame story, but let's not get entangled in that. It's about as meaningful as the frame stories in many musicals. And like its counterparts, Five Guys is about the music.

The performers — C. Mingo Long, Erick Pinnick, Andre Montgomery, Keldon LaVar Price, Jerome Lucas Harmann, and Korey Jackson — were wonderful. They danced, they sang, they acted without stinting. The audience from the youngest to the oldest loved the music and cooperated fully with the actors in among other things clapping on beats two and four. There is a great deal about the show that I don't want to give away, so you will just have to go see it. Expect to

be fully entertained.

The instrumental musicians were under the direction of Ron L. Hacket, and they had the style down just right. So did the set designer, Russell Parkman, who based the idea for the set on the work of the American artist Jacob Lawrence — he had little bit of help from the director, Tim Fort, who suggested Lawrence's work as a possible starting point — as did the costume designer, Ilona Somogyi, whose zoot suits were fire-engine red. All the tech parts worked as smoothly as possible.

One of the main reasons I go to review productions at Weston Playhouse is that I know that I will see theater at its best, even when sometimes every part is not so brilliant as the rest. When it all comes together, as it does in this production of Five Guys, it's a real gift to the audience, no matter how far they have to travel to see it.

This production runs through July 23. Opening next week on the Other Stages series at the Weston Rod & Gun Club is the play Copenhagen, a mystery story based on real-life incidents that took place in Nazi-occupied Denmark between Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg, and opening on July 28th is the wonderful show Kiss Me, Kate.

Information and tickets at 802-824-5288 ... and don't miss Five Guys. It's red-hot and red!