

local news

Large Cast, Live Music Make Awesome Company

The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol's production made for a night of good music and whooping laughter.

By KRISTEN FIORE  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

It's all about the company. The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol's third installment of season two followed along the season's theme of commitment but swayed in style with a 14-person musical cast accompanied by a live orchestra.

Based on the book by George Furth and filled with music by Stephen Sondheim, "Company" is built in scattered vignettes around protagonist Robert's 35th birthday.

All of his friends are married and Robert, played by Chris Crawford, is still single, but he can't seem to make up his mind if he would like to remain that way or join his married friends.

The story unfolds through scenes in no particular chronological order of Robert's antics with his 10 married friends and three possible love interests.

Always the third party when he visits his friends, Robert is the witness to plenty of bickering, diet troubles, drinking problems and relationship issues.

But he also observes the tenderness and companionship a married relationship has to offer, causing him to constantly change his mind about whether he's ready to be married himself.

Broken up by visually pleasing choreography, musical numbers and abstract interludes where Robert's life and the people in it seem to ravel and expand around him, the story keeps coming back to a scene at Robert's 35th birthday party where he is presented with a birthday cake and candles to blow out.

The particular scene is revisited at different points in the play so that the audience can watch it with different perspectives.

The rustic set, equipped with a bar, an upper loft, a platform and a few tables, worked dynamically throughout the play.

Whether it was acting as someone's apartment, a



Submitted photo

The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol is currently running its third installment of the season, "Company," a musical comedy based on the book by George Furth.

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YORI OKUDA  
Village of Pennecamp

restaurant or a terrace, it was believable.

“Whoever set their staging up did a terrific job,” said Susan Bown, of the Village of Duval.

Bown and her friend Jo Edwards, of Plantation, said they have seen every production at The Studio and have been very happy with all of them.

This time around, they were especially impressed with the singing and acting abilities of Whitney Morse as Amy and Jordan Leigh McCaskill as Marta.

Edwards said the live orchestra was a nice touch.

“That was a treat,” she said. “That was pretty cool. And they're good.”

Also part of the cast were Craig Allen as Peter; Nicu Brouillette as Paul; Sean Cullen Carroll as Larry; Chantelle Cognevich as Susan; Kayla Fischl as April; Jason Goedkenas Harry; Meghan Maroney as Joanne; David Paul Rowan as David; Monica Titus as Jenny; Rachel Whittington as Kathy; and Vallea Woodbury as Sarah.

“There are so many actors in the cast,” said Yori Okuda, of

the Village of Pennecamp. “It's always a great cast, but there are so many in this one. That really struck me.”

The cast members worked well together and realistically conveyed emotion with expert acting.

With each other as company, they put on a show that had the audience cackling with laughter, dancing in their seats and gasping in awe.

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