



Submitted photos
Whitney Morse performs in the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol's current summer song cycle show, "Tell Me on a Sunday."

'Tell Me on a Sunday' Is Musical Theater at Its Purest

The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol's current song-cycle impressed an intimate audience.

By KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Senior Writer

All you need to tell a compelling story is three chairs, two hats, one talented actress and some very well-written song lyrics.

Need proof? The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol's "Tell Me on a Sunday" is your answer.

Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer of "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Cats," "Tell Me on a Sunday" is a one-woman show about a British girl who has just moved to New York.

The star of the show remains nameless and is simply known as "Girl."

Girl, played by Whitney Morse, artistic director of The Studio and the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, reveals her true self to the audience as she rhythmically deals with loneliness, relationships and breakups.

The cycle plays over and over again throughout the show, but Girl's standards get lower with each man she sees.

One of her qualities is her optimism, but in some instances, it is her determination to look on the bright side that gets her in trouble.

She is ready to be a wife and a mother, and she's so afraid of being alone that she takes whatever relationship she can get, seeing the good in everyone and every situation.

The relationships she sings about are driven home by the fact that the entire show is just one character alone onstage.

Morse delivered an impressive performance.

Not many people would be able to enamor an audience with nothing but their singing and acting skills and a simple set consisting of three chairs,

two hats and a screen hinting at the setting.

Morse's singing voice was clear and easy to understand, giving the audience the chance to fully appreciate Webber's lyrics and grasp the story the music told.

The songs also were presented beautifully because music director Gary Powell and company played live music the entire show.

By the end of the song cycle, Girl eventually recognizes her self-worth. Her optimism wins over in the end when she realizes that "living without love isn't a crime."

The audience clapped after each song, and at the end of the show, there were a few audible "wows" as the lights dimmed and the standing ovation grew louder.

Bill and Marcia Smith, of the Village of Lake Deaton, were impressed with Morse's performance.

"It was incredible that she

could remember words to all of those melodies," Marcia said. "Her voice was so clear. You could hear every word."

Their neighbors, Sharon and Lou Navin, thought the story was told in an interesting way.

"It was such a beautiful and comfortable setting," Sharon said. "You've just got to get into her life."

The story was also something familiar for them.

"Our daughter spent her first 10 years in New York as a bachelorette, so I could relate very much," Lou said.

The Village of Lake Deaton residents also expressed their love for The Studio.

"We're so lucky to have this in The Villages," Sharon said. "I wish (Morse's) grandma had been here to see it."

Kristen Fiore is a senior writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.



The audience clapped after each song in "Tell Me on a Sunday." The songs were presented beautifully because music director Gary Powell and company played live music.

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