

**BROS THEATRE COMPANY**

## **Crazy For You • October 2010 • Richmond Theatre**

### **REVIEW**

If the wow factor is what you are looking for in a show, this production had it in spades. From the first sight of the frills and furbelows of the opening chorus number we knew we were in for a treat. As with many of the musicals which had their origin in the 1930s this was a rather fragile story with a backstage setting. The story line scarcely matters however when a show contains such wonderfully evocative numbers as Embraceable You, I Got Rhythm, Someone To Watch Over Me, They Can't Take That Away From Me and Nice Work If You Can Get It.

The story transports us from glitzy New York's 42nd Street just before the Depression to Deadrock, Nevada where depression already reigns. Bobby Child, desperate to appear in a musical production by the renowned impresario, Zangler, is however sent off by his bossy business-woman mother to the aptly named Deadrock to serve notice on a theatre which has had no audiences for years since the railroad stopped short eight miles away. Bobby's exhausted arrival on the scene, gasping for a drink and collapsing like a rag doll, was a key to the physicality and comic timing of Nick Moorhead's star quality performance throughout. He is a wonderfully graceful, long-legged tap dancer who can also charmingly sing a romantic number to melt the heart.

He was partnered by Rhian Robert in the part of Polly, the daughter of the defunct theatre's owner and the only female in Deadrock. Polly's first appearance during the hilarious chorus of resident deadbeats, each of whom had a distinctive character nicely drawn by the performers, shows a feisty young woman who is clearly going to be no pushover by some chancer from New York. Rhian is another charming performer whose vocal qualities match her dancing skills and made her romantic waltz numbers with Bobby enough to make Strictly Come Dancing competitors eat their hearts out.

Supporting roles were uniformly well cast and the actors certainly made the most of them. Especially notable was Sue Chaperlin in Naughty Baby when she saucily vamped it up with Michael D'Ambrosio as the helpless Lank. He didn't have a chance, lucky fella !

Both the choruses, the girls in glorious day frocks and feathery stage outfits, sang, danced and acted their socks off and contributed greatly to the success of the whole production. There were many unforgettable moments, but some that come immediately to mind were the endless stream of starlets pouring out of the tiny car on parked on stage, the broken bottle bar brawl, and the encounter of the two Zanglers in the desert saloon bar. Mention must be made of Bryan Cardus' great comic contribution to this scene in which he and Bobby, dressed as lookalike Zanglers fail to recognise each other in their drunken stupor.

The creative team behind this production were: Director, Andy Locke; Choreography and Co-Director, Melanie Edwards; Musical Director, Carl Smith; Lighting Designer, Ed Pagett; and Sound Designer, Stuart Vaughan.

Congratulations to all!

**Annie Oakley  
ArtsRichmond**

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