



Musical REVIEW Commentary (As seen 6/27/14)



THE CALIFORNIA RHYTHM PROJECT

"On the Corner of Rhythm & Rhyme!"



Per Steve & Joanie Shirley

The 2014 San Diego Int'l FRINGE Festival

Act two - scene one:

Ten days of every imaginable kind of entertainment, presented in over 200 performances, by over 80 companies - going on from 11am till

midnight, in 10 different venues ... all over San Diego - but mostly in the downtown area - where sometimes, you find yourself running with the patrons you just spent an hour with, at one venue, to get to the next ... and then, if you are able - joining anyone 21+, who survive the day's events at the 'rubbing elbows party' ... on the roof-top terrace of the 10th Avenue Theatre.

Great theatrical times, Great exercise, Great company ... at below rock-bottom prices!!!



ZERO IN ON CALIFORNIA RHYTHM PROJECT & THE GYM SD Fringe Festival Where: Spreckels Theatre & The Lyceum Theatre Dates: 7/6/14 www.sdfestival.org

It's Sunday July 6th, High Noon - and we are at the Lyceum Theatre to watch one of two simulcast presentations. Ours, is "The GYM: A New Musical with Something for Every Body" Music, by our long-time friend Rayme Sciaroni, and Lyrics by Margee Forman - a peek at the sixty-minute rendition, of the original ... full 90 minute production.



(L to R) Fred Strack, Beverly Baker, Paul James Kruse, Barb Schoenhofer & Tatiana Mac

The GYM music is intricate, with melodies that appear sometimes hard to find for the singers. However, when Rayme sings them, as he accompanies the cast on piano - (because one lead singer dropped-out ... when his appendix dropped out), I'm enchanted - every note is unexpected ... but his beautiful melodies remain intact. Of course, Rayme can find the notes ... as he composed them. The other singing cast members, are not that lucky all the time. When the ensemble-cast were in harmony - they sometimes struck solid gold ... and sometimes struck-out. If any one of them lost their own note, the rest seemed tonally impaired ... and some of these notes, have to be felt at the bone-deep-level of body awareness - because in the heat of a performance ... that is only where they can be found!



Cast of THE GYM

I'm not sure if Rayme and Margee, needed to find just the right singers, who could hear these intricate tones (that really are off-the-chart ... beautifully unique) - or, if more rehearsal time was needed - for this cast to come on board ... and be at ease with the difficult task of mastering this music.

The cuteness of the show also rests on the lyrics. Not often are any repeated, so the story line is broken - when the audience cannot easily understand the majority of the words sung. In an ordinary musical, so much is repeated - that, by the end of the song ... we can get most of the meaning. Here every clever lyric counts - and we missed enough ... to cause some disruption.

Got to give this GYM performance another chance, to know if it will fly further than the Fringe Festival - it landed-on tonight. Now, off-and-running ... ten minutes to travel two blocks!



Next up, at the *Spreckels Raw Space*, is the tapping ensemble known as the **California Rhythm Project** presenting "*On The Corner of Rhythm & Rhyme*". Great show here, from Director **Nancy Boskin-Mullen**, and Artistic Director **Pam Thompson-Spinner**. Not the usual noisy mess, of dozens of half-trained tappers, trying to see how many unrelated taps - they can cram into sixty seconds. This group, brings lyrical rhythms and precision dance technique, to enchant the sounds of down-under drumming, on its way to our ears ... resulting in lots of audience foot tapping!



It is wonderful for me, a lifetime tapping student and performer - to watch and listen to this group re-invent this art. I know how enjoyable it is, to create these sounds together. And these dancers, had fun with heads-up, eyes-up ... and directly inviting the

audience to join in the celebration. This group has traveled technically and entertainingly, a long-way from the first time, we saw of their really good performance, at last year's *Mojalet* Summer Series at ... *The Vine*.

A+ to **Summer Briggs** whose natural body rhythms, set her a cut above the rest of us hard-training mortals! This afternoon, the spoken word, soulfully recited by **Ernie McCray**, with song, rhythm tap and body music by the entire company, blended to create a suburban landscape - where we got to join a neighborhood at play. Visit the **California Rhythm Project's**



website for more information about their upcoming events, classes and auditions at ...

www.californiarhythmproject.org.



There is still a long way to go in this year's **FRINGE Festival** festivities. As it is an annual event, re-created from other world-wide **FRINGE Festivals**, and here directed from the mind of **Kevin Charles Patterson** and many others - you might give it some serious consideration ... for the next go 'round. This year's production, in its entirety - earned another **Bravo San Diego Award** honor, in the category of Best Entertainment Value (All Live Performing Disciplines). If you are artistically afflicted, you owe it to yourself and

your significant others, to at least acquire **Ron Logan's** 50-page, incredibly prepared program - and see what life arts' wonders ... are happening in our fair city.

Visit www.sdfringe.org ... for all necessary information.
