

Dinner Theatre Lets The Good Times Roll

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Reviewer

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A sold out and enthusiastic crowd packed the Quilted Giraffe Oct. 23 for the latest production from Jon Putzke's Theatre-Go-Round, "Let the Good Times Roll."

The spacious room opens at 4:30 for dinner, followed by the live show promptly at 6 p.m. The show lasted exactly one hour.

A \$55 all-inclusive dinner package features the meal, show, ticket, tax, and gratuity. This writer had the vegetarian option, which was pasta. Others in the room chose from Chef Kurt Runge's carved tenderloin of beef or the fresh seafood of the day. Entrees were accompanied by a salad of mixed greens with vinaigrette dressing, bread and butter, two sides and dessert. Coffee or iced tea accompanied the meal, and a la carte beer, wine and cocktail service was available.

But as the saying goes, you may come for the food but you'll stay for the show. The five-person cast of three women and two men moved through oldies from the 1950s that most in the audience knew by heart and sang along to.

As the show began, the cast members walked among the tables greeting patrons and it was clear many of the attendees had been to the dinner theatre before, as they greeted the cast like old friends. Jailhouse Rock quickly gave way to Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? which nicely showcased the ladies' harmonies.

Peppermint Twist and Rock Around The Clock had the crowd bopping, but Doris Day's Whatever Will Be, Will Be (Que Sera Sera) really brought the sing-along to its peak. It occurred that these are songs that one rarely sees performed live anymore in any setting.

Other hits included Mockingbird, Mambo Italiano, Peggy Sue, and Tennessee Waltz.

For this writer, Peggy Lee's Fever was a highlight, belted out by Shamara Turner while the other cast members, Gregory Harris, Brendan Wenger, Caitlin Harris and Beth McKenzie-Shestak, kept beat with drumsticks.

Another crowd pleaser was Mack the Knife, which all attendees seemed to know by heart as they joyously sang along.

There was a humorous "novelty song" segment featuring The Chipmunks' classic "Witch Doctor" and "Purple People Eater."

Jon Putzke directed the production, wife Margaret designed and created costumes, and granddaughter Grace Putzke is sound technician.

This Theatre-Go-Round production gets a big thumbs up. The room was comfortable, the volume was perfect, and the service was attentive. Get your tickets fast, as most shows sell out.

"Let the Good Times Roll" will run at Patrick Tomassi's Quilted Giraffe Restaurant, 500 South US 1 in Vero Beach on Sundays, Nov. 6, 13, 20, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 12 and 19. There will be a Valentine's Day performance on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Reservations are required. Call the box office at (772) 252-9341 with Visa, MasterCard or Discover. \$25 show only tickets may be purchased the day of the performance if available.