

## **“Those Fabulous ‘50s”**

*A decade of solid gold hits!*

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There may be nothing which evokes memories more nostalgically and gratifyingly than music and a popular musical gem from Theatre-Go-Round Dinner Theatre summons the most delightful recollections of what now seems like a kinder and gentler time.

“Those Fabulous ‘50s” recalls a post World War II America via a nearly 30-song revue featuring solid gold hits presented by a trio of songstresses who, though too young to remember those times, nonetheless recapture its memorable essence.

Reprising one of last season's most heralded shows, Theatre-Go-Round impresario Jon Putzke has now taken "Those Fabulous '50s" to new, appreciative audiences at Vero Beach's Quilted Giraffe restaurant located at 500 US 1 near the Vista Royale condominium complex. The show performs on Sundays on Nov. 24 and Dec. 8 and 22.

Oh, the memories this production evokes! Let it be known right now that if there were a real H.G. Wells-like “time machine,” I’d likely set the dial to about 1957 and return forever to that time when computers, “smart” phones and text messaging were not even a gleam in the eyes of electronics engineers.

Give me a two-toned, American-made car with fins, a stay-at-home mom, a rotary dial phone and rabbit-ear TV antennas. Give me kids who played imaginative games outdoors; give me unlocked doors in safe neighborhoods and cops who walked a beat. Give me the 1950s...please!

Putzke does just that.

And his trio of Patty Carreau, Eleanor Dixon and Shamara Turner turn the evening into a nostalgic musical retrospective of that fabulous decade which saw a fledgling musical genre – rock ‘n roll – hit its stride through the gyrations and vocals of Elvis Presley and Dick Clark’s “American Bandstand.”

There may be nothing more enjoyable vocally than listening to good, three-part harmonies and these ladies have theirs down tighter than a Marine recruit’s bunk sheets. Wow, can they sing! Their vocal prowess alone is enough to put smiles on the audience’s faces, but the songs – including “Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow,” “Tears on My Pillow,” “Lipstick on Your Collar,” “Tammy,” “Da Doo Ron Ron” – will assure a most enjoyable return to those really fabulous ‘50s. And thanks to sound technician Todd Morgan, every note is crystal clear.

Listening to the Theatre-Go-Round “divas” sing “Sugartime” was to once again enjoy the harmonies of that quintessential girls’ trio the McGuire Sisters.

A sold-out crowd this evening was comprised primarily of 60- and 70-year-olds who, for just an evening, were transported via a musical time machine back to their high school teen years. Broad smiles smoothed away wrinkles and more than one "tush" could be seen doing a seated "dance" to the melodies of their youth as they sang along to lyrics familiar for more than half a century.

Putzke had hoped the show would engender some audience participation for what he termed “mind-catching melodies.” After all, who of a proper age doesn’t remember the lyrics of “Purple People Eater” or “Love Potion #9?” And this audience remembered - singing along perhaps less capably than the ladies but certainly no less enthusiastically.

Expertly wending their way amid patron tables, the songstresses provide an up-close-and-personal live entertainment experience for a captivated audience.

This show is just plain fun. And while the decade of the 1950s was hardly idyllic with its civil rights injustices and constant (even paranoid) threat of Communism, it was a time when less was more and things seemed simpler.

Perhaps like the pain of childbirth which is quickly forgotten in the aftermath of a baby’s smile, the 1950s has with time grown dearer to us as the world seems to spin faster and seemingly out-of-control. While the calendar moves ever forward, it is those pleasurable memories of the past which we can still check out like favorite library books (another obsolescence?) to enjoy over and over again. This is truly a show to savor.

Of course, Theatre-Go-Round Dinner Theatre regulars know it is not just the auditory sense which is delightfully treated. One can savor things visually as well and the ladies sparkle like the stars they are in gorgeous sequined and spangled-topped gowns. But then there is that wonderful other sense: taste.

Theatre-Go-Round Dinner Theatre is presenting this captivating show at one of Vero Beach's most venerable restaurants - the Quilted Giraffe. Owner Patrick Tomassi and Chef Kurt Runge have prepared an epicurean delight that is sure to please the most discriminating palate.

Patrons enjoy a three-course dinner which begins with a mixed greens salad with bread and butter and then get to choose an entree of either artichoke-stuffed colossal shrimp or roast pork tenderloin. Entrees include chef's potatoes or rice pilaf and vegetables. Capping a sumptuous meal is vanilla bean pudding soufflé, coffee or tea. A la carte beverages, beer, wine and cocktails are also available.

Sunday dinner is served at 4:30 p.m. with a twilight show at 6 p.m. The cost per person is \$55 which includes dinner, the live show, tax and gratuity. Reservations are required with Visa, MasterCard or Discover and may be made by calling 772-252-9341.