

FAMILY | Rated `G

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ONSTAGE

'Rent'

The Broadway musical was here and gone in a flash, but Rated G reviewer Lizzy Weiss was able to catch the magic at the San Diego Civic Theatre.

By LIZZY WEISS

Review: "One Musical, Glory. One musical, before I go. Glory, One musical to leave behind."

"Rent" is an amazing musical with a complex story line that shows the lives of seven main characters through their tough times of making it in the world. Some are aspiring musicians, others interested in film, and there are many more creative opportunities these characters strive to find through living their day-to-day lives.

It's hard to keep up in the world paying rent while trying to live a fun life. Unfortunately, many of these characters face the hardships of being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

The lyrics of this musical are so powerful and sad, and the way these performers portray each of their characters is amazing. They are truly believable in the way they bring these characters to life.

Each song has its own special flair. The story line is how each of these characters comes to meet and how much they all need one another.

The lyrics are so touching and make you want to cry, because of the sad story that twists and turns into a sad but happy ending. This musical can teach everyone a great life -- "Live each day as if it were your last."

I never realized how powerful this musical was until I saw it in person, I had only recognized two main songs before that I had loved -- "Seasons of Love" and "One Song Glory."

"Rent" covers very mature subjects. The characters and the performers (including their voices) are phenomenal. I give this musical one great big hand-clapping standing ovation.

'Snoopy!!! The Musical'

It isn't Comic-Con, but this Big Band musical brings Charles M. Schulz's beloved "Peanuts" comic strip characters to life. The Coronado Playhouse presentation runs through Aug. 6 at the new playhouse, 1835 Strand Way.

Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$20 to \$25. For tickets, call (619) 435-4856 or visit www.coronadoplayhouse.com.

By DAVID DIXON

Review: "Snoopy!!! The Musical" is the second major play based on the long-running comic strip, "Peanuts." Like its predecessor, "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown," the show is comprised of random skits that typically contain musical numbers. Watching the production is as if the comic strip has come to life.

Most of "Snoopy!!!" has the famous beagle viewing the world and sharing his thoughts and comical philosophies with the audience. Many of the songs are about life's lessons. Some are quite funny, while others are serious. In the song, "Where Did That Little Dog Go?," Charlie Brown reminisces about Snoopy's growing independence.

In general, the play is a lot of fun and very upbeat. You do not have to be a fan of the comic strip to enjoy this show.

The acting is also really good. The adult performers do a great job portraying young children.

Bryan C. White is fantastic as Snoopy. He is so believable as a dog who dreams of becoming a professional writer.

"Snoopy!!! The Musical" will appeal to all ages. It has an entertaining premise, fun songs, good acting and an orchestra that plays a jazzy score in a lively and energetic manner. You can't help but leave with a smile on your face.

'The Sound of Music'

There is one opportunity left to see the Christian Community Theater production of this classic Rodgers and Hammerstein musical about a singing governess and her young charges in pre-World War II Austria. Showtime is 8 tonight at the historic Mount Helix Amphitheater in La Mesa.

For tickets, call (619) 588-0206 or (800) 696-1929 or go to www.mthelix.org. Tickets also may be purchased one hour before the curtain goes up at the amphitheater.

By DAVID DIXON

Review: Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical is the last show these two famous musicians ever collaborated on. The story begins in Austria in 1938. Maria is a young woman, studying to become a nun when the Mother Abbess asks her to take a job as a governess to the Von Trapp family.

Captain Von Trapp treats his children like the men that reported to him in the navy. The kids barely have any fun until Maria enters their lives and teaches them music. The story takes a dramatic turn as the events of World War II unfold.

This show was unfortunately marred by technical difficulties on opening night. As always, the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein makes for an entertaining evening. I just wished that the other elements were as good.

The play has a good story line (loosely based on a true story), interesting characters, and great songs. However, the CCT's production at Mount Helix Amphitheater appeared more like a work in progress rather than a finished play.

[Illustration]

1 PIC; Caption: Ano Okera deftly managed the high jumps that are key to the role of Angel in "Rent," the rock version of "La Boheme," which played at the San Diego Civic Theatre earlier this month.; Credit: Joan Marcus

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