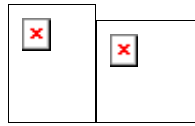


THE THEATER MIRROR, Boston's LIVE Theater Guide

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"What Happened in Boston, Willie"

Reviews of Current Productions

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"Lucky Stiff"

Book and Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Music by Stephen Flaherty

Based on "The Man Who Broke The Bank At Monte Carlo"

by Michael Butterworth

Directed and Choreographed by Dennis Courtney

Musical Director Jim Rice

Set Design by Laurel Dahill

Costume Design by Ted Giammona

Lighting Design by Sarah Sullivan

Sound Design by TJ Bandla

Stage Manager Donald Christy

Harry Witherspoon

MARK S. CARTIER

Body of Tony Hendon/Commuter

DARED WRIGHT

Annabel Glick/Commuter

CELESTE McCLAIN

Rita LaPora/Commuter

NATALIE BROWN

Vincent DiRuzzio/Commuter

DOUG SHAPIRO

Luigi Gaudi/Voice of Tony Hendon/Commuter/Arab

MICHAEL POISSON

Surly Lorry Driver/Solicitor/Prosperous Man in Train/Clothing Salesman/French

Emcee/Croupier/Nun/Old Texan

BRUCE WARD

**Offstage Telegram Deliverer/Vicious Punk/Mr. Loomis The Optometrist's Patient/French Waiter
on Train/Stationmaster's Voice/Bellhop/French Waiter in Club/Dapper Gambler/Leper**

CORY SCOTT

**Landlady/ Miss Thorsby The Secretary/Puerto Rican Nurse/Southern Lady #1/French Airline
Voice/Dancing Portrait/Drunken Maid**

MONICA TOSCHES

Spinster/Southern Lady #2/Dancing Roulette Wheel/Dominique du Monaco

DEBORAH STEIN

Sometimes, in a good farce, it becomes necessary for someone to go over the top. In "Lucky Stiff" out at the Worcester Foothills Theatre, the whole cast goes over the top and then pulls the ladder up after them. It's just what this whacky, non-stop romp needs, and they all do it while singing and dancing the bounciest, silliest words and music (Lynn Ahrens & Stephen Flaherty) since Cole Porter.

The plot asks What bored London shoe-salesman (Mark S. Carter) wouldn't leap at the chance to inherit six million dollars just for escorting his poor old uncle on a week's vacation in Monte Carlo? So what if uncle is dead already but, after the ministrations of his life-long friend (a taxidermist), a supple though silent travelling companion? So what if uncle (Dared Wright) wants to be taken gambling, snorkelling and sky-diving while confined to his wheelchair? So what if a minion of a Brooklyn Dog Hospital (Celeste McClain) intends to get the money by proving our hero misses by a jot, a tittle, or a minute the letter of uncle's outlined itinerary? So what if uncle's mistress and murderess (Natalie Brown) intends to steal the six mil by waving that pistol even though she's legally blind without her glasses? So what if her optometrist brother (Doug Shapiro) has been forced --- forced I tell you --- to spend a week in Monte Carlo accomplishing her? So what if this plot-summary is too long by half and has yet to reveal the many surprise endings?

Dennis Courtney the Director and Choreographer keeps this energetic, inventive crew leaping from sight-gag to quip to hilarious song without giving the audience time to think or even to breathe between lines that whip past so fast they'll have to chuckle at half of them all the way home. The show's a hoot and should be a hit.

And now, lest we forget what the critics office is all about, two notes of dour, censorious opinion: 1) either Sound Designer TJ Bandla has the amps cranked several points too high, or this cast has gotten louder in its enthusiasm since the tech; and 2) the program nowhere credits the perky little band --- though there's a rumor that Steven Bergman is on synths.

Love,
===Anon.

"Lucky Stiff" (till 4 January)

WORCESTER FOOTHILLS THEATRE COMPANY

Worcester Common Outlets, WORCESTER

1(508)754-3314

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