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FST celebrates 30th anniversary

Florida Studio Theatre rounds out its 2004 Cabaret season with a show that celebrates the successes of those artists who achieved "one-hit wonder" status and ponders the fickleness of fame.

Finding humor in the music that captured the attention of America -- if even only for a moment -- "One-Hit Wonders" opened March 23 and plays through May 29.

Dennis Courtney, who has directed this season's previous productions of "The World Goes 'Round," "Too Darn Hot," and "On the Road" will return to direct "One-Hit Wonders." Courtney is currently serving as a resident director at FST. He also directed the FST production of "My One and Only Gershwin" and "Guitar Girls."

There are many definitions of what a one-hit wonder is. The phrase is often used to describe an instance where someone achieved his or her "fifteen minutes of fame." According to Billboard magazine, it is any performing artist or songwriter that enters the top 40 singles charts only once in his or her career. It can also indicate an artist who leapt from obscurity into the spotlight and then fell back into darkness.

"One-Hit Wonders" spans a wide period in popular music, from the 1950s through the 1990s, and features songs with one thing in common: they were the only song by the artist to hit the charts. Each song has its own unique story. The fact that there have been many more one-hit wonders than there are artists who have remained popular over a long period of time is an indication of the public's fickleness in popular music. Some singers, such as actor Richard Harris, whose recording of "MacArthur Park" was a one-hit wonder in 1968, returned to other careers. Others, such as Don McLean, who wrote "American Pie," continued to produce songs. Even after a long career, however, McLean is still only known for this one hit.

The reasons artists achieve one-hit wonder status vary. For Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix, their careers were ended by their early deaths. Joplin's hit, "Me and Bobby McGee" entered the charts after her death. Dance numbers are often one-hit wonders as well. "The Monster Mash," "Locomotion" and the "Macarena" shaped the song's popularity more than the music did.

The cast of "One-Hit Wonders" includes: Julie Cardia, Jannie Jones, Gary Lindemann and James Weaver. Cardia, Jones and Weaver recently appeared in the FST Cabaret production of "Too Darn Hot." Lindemann is making his FST debut.

The creative team of "One-Hit Wonders" includes: Dennis Courtney (director), Michael Sebastian (music director), Marcella Beckwith (costume and scenic designer), and Jeffrey Dillon (lighting designer).

Staff Report

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