

REVIEWS!

I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE:

"The Playhouse has found a talented director in Dennis Courtney, who has a nice sense of comedy, an impeccable sense of musical theatre and makes it all seem bright as a new penny."

-The Cincinnati Enquirer

"I Love You...Now Change scores a 'Perfect 10'."

-The Recorder

WEST SIDE STORY:

"Under the inspired vision of director/choreographer Dennis Courtney it's as if the show had been reinvented. You might think you know the musical. Until you've seen this version, you don't... In making this classic unique, Courtney's approach goes character-deep...also Courtney's fresh approach to the dance numbers, which contain the necessary elements of the Jerome Robbins original, but still give an impression of newness, of crispness, which proves absolutely captivating... Courtney creates one of the most satisfying experiences local musical theatre has offered in recent memory. Go see for yourself the miracle of an old warhorse of a musical looking like it was born yesterday."

-Los Angeles Times

"Director/choreographer Dennis Courtney has fashioned such a heartfelt, electrifying and resonant interpretation of the masterpiece that it's hard to believe this show has reached the menopausal age of 41."

-BackStage - "Critic's Pick "

"As good as it gets... Musical Theatre West's 'West Side Story' electrifies from beginning to end."

-Long Beach Press Telegram

PETER PAN:

"This version, with Cathy Rigby as Peter, is about as good as it gets."

-San Francisco Chronicle

"The particular advantage of TUTS' current rendition of PETER PAN is the vivid and fast paced staging by director Dennis Courtney. Courtney keeps TUTS' production moving at a rapid clip, with lots of action and splashy visual effects. The dance numbers are vigorous and the ensemble well drilled. Best of all, Courtney does not gloss over the play's tender moments, but handles them with earnest sensitivity. TUTS' PETER PAN soars!"

-Houston Chronicle

"The staging by Dennis Courtney is bright, boyish, energetic and delightful. The choreography is extremely exciting and innovative. The dances of the pirates are simply a treasure. He paces the show beautifully and choreographs the movements of actors and scenes with a rhythm which keeps the audience completely absorbed."

-Houston Post

"...This production has some of the most colorful and spectacular settings in years. It has at least one dance number, 'Ugg-A-Wugg', that is as fine an example of disciplined choreography ever seen. Director and Choreographer Dennis Courtney has done an excellent job."

-Green Valley News

"There really aren't enough superlatives to describe the wonder of this production... The Indians' 'Ugg-A-Wugg' routine is a knock-out!"

-Long Beach Press Telegram

**"Dennis Courtney's choreography is lively and enthusiastic with a sense of fun."
-Los Angeles Times**

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT:

"For sheer verve, explosive energy, and infectious good spirits, this reviewer has seen nothing like *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* since *Hair* in 1967. That was on Broadway. The new entry on State Street stands beside it without apology. This is a thoroughly professional mounting...*Joseph* is visually stunning...it has freshness and spontaneity. Director-choreographer Dennis Courtney makes prodigious demands on his ensemble and they do not let him down."

-Santa Barbara Independent

"This first effort by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber has been given a fun and invigorating production by the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera. Director/choreographer Dennis Courtney has put a lot of energy and razzle-dazzle onstage...'Joseph' was a wonderful holiday treat..."

-Back Stage

"Joseph and his dreamcoat are still amazing, still colorful. Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera's current version is a wonderfully energetic production, with the right mix of good-natured fun, talented stars and handsome staging to warrant another trip back to Biblical times -the result is pure, unadulterated fun...Framing these contemporary elements with an Old Testament context sparked notable ingenuity in the staging. Director and choreographer Dennis Courtney invests the production numbers with wry touches (like the brothers using their staves as vaudeville-style canes) and sustains an engaging visual flair..."

-Los Angeles Times

"Dreamcoat come true...Under the direction and choreography of Dennis Courtney, the current Santa Barbara production captures all the energy and humor the show has to offer...It's a fast-paced show that's over so quickly, it's full of fun, easy on both the eyes and ears - and for any rock music fans who may think they don't like musical comedy, this superb production of 'Joseph' might just convince them otherwise."

-Simi Valley Enterprise

"IT'S A HIT! 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' is an all-out, across-the-board, bona fide HIT ...Dennis Courtney's direction and choreography were particularly impressive, considering how many of the dance routines involve enormous numbers of people."

-Tucson Citizen

"Music Theatre of Wichita's 26th season finale production 'Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' begs for superlatives. It is awesome. Virtually everything and everyone -sets, costumes, lights, performers, musicians -stretch to theatrical heights...Director-choreographer Dennis Courtney has packed the show with dandy dance numbers that showcase the summer company, especially the male dancers."

-The Wichita Eagle

"Directed and choreographed by Dennis Courtney, 'Joseph' matched any of the best SALOC productions...and was really better than many I can remember...The most credit must go to the staging, direction, and choreography...and that means Dennis Courtney."

-KGVY 1080 AM

RED HOT MAMA:

"If you started the summer on simmer, 'Red Hot Mama' will turn up the heat for you. Filled to the brim with schmaltz and chutzpah, here's a show that may be red hot this summer but which will undoubtedly be white-hot by winter... This is an entertaining look at a fascinating superstar. Don't miss it."

-Out Front, Denver

"It's a polished entertainment...set in motion by darting spotlights, 'Mama', directed by Dennis Courtney, is presented on a red-curtained stage, set off by an old-fashioned chandelier. The retro atmosphere serves the material charmingly."

-Denver Post

PAPER MOON:

"The endearing story...came lovingly alive Wednesday at the opening performance...It has lots of humor and heart. Director Dennis Courtney seemed to get the best from everyone in the cast."

-The Wichita Eagle

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF:

"...Professional direction by a man who had obviously inspired every member of the large cast to do his best...special applause is deserved by Dennis Courtney...a sensational SALOC production!"

-KGVY Radio

"Rep Theatre stages first-class rendition of beloved 'Fiddler'. Dennis Courtney's direction is artful; and there are exquisite scenes that are haunting and sometimes hilarious. Once a year a *new* tradition might be the staging of this timeless musical drama...with the same quota of style and mood- enhancing design."

-The Tennessean

"The Rep's *Fiddler*, however, is fresh, funny and entertaining no matter how well you think you know the show. The direction by Dennis Courtney (who has also choreographed here with great success) is sharply paced and lovingly observed...impeccable direction..."

-Nashville Business Journal

"Rep shines in classic musical's tender moments...Director Dennis Courtney has added some nice touches to the staging. The best scenes in the show are those requiring small moments of tenderness..."

-Nashville Banner

BEGGAR'S HOLIDAY:

"Well directed and choreographed by Dennis Courtney for the Pegasus Players, this multi-racial musical is the most upbeat and scintillating show we've enjoyed during this brief week in Chicago."

-DramaLogue

"This production takes your heart, tosses it around a bit, then gives it back to you. Don't miss this show!"

-Inferno**CAN-CAN:**

"Dennis Courtney, the choreographer, whose work -be it a high-kicking can-can, a violent funny 'Apache' number or the extended 'Garden Of Eden Ballet' -looks fresh and comes off more fetching than any I've seen on the little round Midtown stage. The gags are funny. The colors are bright, the dancing brighter. Put them together, 'c'est magnifique!'"

-Sacramento Bee

"Choreographer Dennis Courtney has put together some snazzy dance numbers and their Montmartre flavor is engaging and authentic. When three dancers throw each other around and claw at one another in an Apache dance sequence in the second act, we feel the toughness of Paris low-life but never forget this is a musical comedy. And when everyone dresses up in animal costumes for a lavish ball in the first act, it's fun to experience the macabre side of the French character."

-Sacramento Union

PAINT YOUR WAGON:

"SALOC'S Wagon' has spirit...instead of whistling a tune while leaving the theatre, one is more likely to remember the big dance routines choreographed by the show's director, Dennis Courtney."

-Tucson Citizen

OLIVER!:

"The Rep's 'Oliver!' mixes grit with fun...Consider yourself entertained. The Rep's 'Oliver' filled with great songs, realism...While it features the sound and shape of traditional feel-good musicals, the Tennessee Repertory Theatre production emphasizes a gritty, hard-edged quality that generates depth and realism unusual in the genre. Sure, there are rousing, foot-tapping numbers and memorable comic moments -in the midst of the rich atmosphere conjured by Courtney -Courtney, who was last in town to direct the Rep's 'Fiddler On The Roof' this past season, has put a lot of thought into this production. That's evident in scene after scene. A recent performance of 'Oliver!' revealed a sophisticated production on several levels."

-The Tennessean

ANNIE GET YOUR GUN:

"Bright pictures bristling with energy yield an agreeable evening. Dennis Courtney directed."

-San Francisco Chronicle

"A fine rip-snortin' 'Annie'. Director Dennis Courtney's production has heart. The energy level is high and 'Annie Get Your Gun' moves along at an amusing clip."

-Press Democrat, Santa Rosa

"'Annie Get Your Gun' hits the bull's-eye...surpassed my expectations for the evening. Direction was also first-rate in this production. A reason to see what the remainder of the SRT (Summer Repertory Theatre) season holds."

-The Paper. Santa Rosa

SHOWBOAT:

"'Showboat' still produces show-stopping moments...Brightly directed, and choreographed by Dennis Courtney."

-The Birmingham News

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN:

"'Singin' In The Rain' captures the grace of a different era. Director/Choreographer, Dennis Courtney, emphasizes the smooth and graceful moves... This is a lovely shift of aesthetic emphasis, reminding us that faster isn't always better."

-Tucson Citizen

CABARET:

"Choreography by Dennis Courtney is excitingly professional and a real plus for the show."

-Drama-Logue

LUCKY STIFF:

"There was no doubting who the lucky people were at yesterday afternoon's official opening of 'Lucky Stiff'. They were the 280 people in attendance. For in terms of production values and the quality of the performances, this is a first-class show all the way...Director and choreographer Dennis Courtney moves everyone around with precision and a sense of timing that never flags."

-Telegram & Gazette

"The Foothills production, under the direction of Dennis Courtney, does the authors proud. The action moves swiftly, the laughs are continuous and the musical numbers are crisp and precise."

-Ware River News

..'Lucky Stiff' travels well... The show's current production at Foothills Theatre is well worth a visit."

-Boston Herald

"'Lucky Stiff' was a years-end triumph of silliness and farce, directed and choreographed by Dennis Courtney, that should be revived more often."

-Boston Theatre Mirror

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM:

"Dennis Courtney is responsible for the lightning-swift direction and vibrant choreography...a zesty gleeful trip."

-The Daily Oklahoman

MAME:

"Zesty choreography and musical staging by Dennis Courtney contributes to this winning Mame."

-Drama-Logue

GEORGE M!:

"Lyric Theatre is presenting a rousing rendition of Cohan's life this week in 'George

M! (directed and choreographed by Dennis Courtney), a fast-paced, patriotic two hours of singing and dancing... this energetic production that features many wonderful dance numbers."

-Escort, Oklahoma City

"George M! tops in music, dance... Dennis Courtney directed this musical and also did the intricate fast-paced choreography."

-The Journal Record

"With a strikingly young supporting cast that makes 'George M!' a great treat, particular points go to Dennis Courtney for the splendid choreography..."

-Radio Review by Cliff Warren

THE MUSIC MAN:

"Music Man marches to success...Lyric Theatre's first show of the season has to be labeled a success. This familiar musical by Meredith Willson, with its great music and lyrics, drew cheers, whistles and standing ovations from the audience throughout the show..."

-The Journal Record

"Lyric season opener is musical, visual treat... 'Music Man' is well directed and choreographed by Dennis Courtney, who created the impressive dance routines."

-Escort, OKC

OKLAHOMA:

"Updated classic a winner! At the opening night performance of SALOC's production, an audience

of some 1800 gave the show a standing ovation. Dennis Courtney has come up with an interesting interpretation SALOC's version shows Jud in a new light...much like Lenny the farm hand in 'Of Mice And Men'. Instead of the usual feel-good 'Oklahoma!' for senior citizens who saw the original back in the 1940'5, Courtney has come up with a uniquely contemporary 'Oklahoma!' that feels right in these troubled times. The director's decision is brilliant."

-Tucson Citizen

"SALOC tries to add a new freshness to this American benchmark. And you know what? They succeed! If I were a play doctor, I wouldn't change a thing, except try to lengthen the run of this 'Oklahoma!'"

-KGVY Radio