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Show Title	Too Darn Hot
Subtitle	A Cole Porter Revue
Total Rating	***1/2
Currently Running?	NO
Dates	Opened November 4, 2003; Ended January 10, 2004
Country	USA
State	Florida
City/Town	Sarasota
Theater Type	Regoinal
Producer/Theater Co.	Florida Studio Theater (Richard Hopkins, artistic dir)
Theater	Florida Studio Theater - Goldstein Cabaret
Theater Address	1231 North Palm Avenue
Box Office Phone	(941) 366-9000
Running Time	90 min
Genre	Musical Revue
Author	Music & Lyrics: Cole Porter; Book: FST development team
Director	Dennis Courtney

Director Dennis Courtney

Review Absolutely nothing is cold about *Too Darn Hot*, a compilation of Cole Porter hits. A scarlet and sapphire draped arch takes the hot lights backing the four performers who set the tone for Act I with "Anything Goes." "Let's Misbehave" Stephen Hope with his slippery voice tries to persuade Julie Cardie with her show-girl soprano, but she counters with "My Heart Belongs to Daddy." Jim Weaver and Jannie Jones flagrantly agree: "Let's Do It." When Jim swivels his hips throughout "Come Along with Me," there's no doubt where he's leading. After the Paris-inspired songs, Porter finds an equally happy home on American shores: "Take Me Back to Manhattan" as well as "I Happen to Like New York." Whereas their costumes go from varied to more formally coordinated and shinier, the performers unreel more individualistic than grouped images in Act II. Irony in Stephen's "Thank You So Much, Missus Lowsborough-Goody" contrast with Julie's humorous "Tale of the Oyster," delivered like kiddie lit. A medley that begins "Too Darn Hot" and ends "It's All Right" packs punch. FST favorite Jannie is sure not to disappoint fans by incorporating gospel into the quartet's dynamic "Blow, Gabriel, Blow." Though *Too Darn Hot* differs little in format from other FST-developed revues, this one is elevated by the quality of the music, the sophistication of the lyrics and the performers.

Caution/Guidance

Other Critics PELICAN PRESS Roberta Hamilton !

Miscellaneous

Awards

Cast Julie Cardia, Stephen Hope, Jannie Jones, Jim Weaver; Jim Prosser (piano)

Technical Staff Choreog: Dennis Courtney; Music Dir: Michael Sebastian; Set & Costumes: Marcella Beckwith; Lights: Jeffrey Dillon

Critic Kilker, Marie J.

Date Reviewed November 2003

