

Bonnie & Clyde – a new musical

Review

Written by Jane Zussman, local theatre supporter/critic

September 20, 2013

BONNIE AND CLYDE - is a HIT at Peppermint Creek - with both bullets and talent. Excellent performances and a sensitive musical by Frank Wildhorn with lyrics by Don Black and Book by Ivan Menchell, brings this doomed duo into our hearts, despite their many flaws and mistakes. It's all set against the deprivation of The Great Depression, and that background of desperation helps set up these outlaws as "celebrities" in their way.

Seeing them first as children (well played by Zach Surdenik and the convincingly star-struck Kaleel Van Voorhees) helps us see the innocent beginnings of the lure of fame and violence. In the title roles, Brittany Nichol and Adam Woolsey seem meant for each other and set the bar high in acting, energy, singing and stage presence. Matt Bill and Mary Maurer are also excellent as Clyde's brother and sister-in-law. As the preacher, Tigiste Habtemariam and her congregation really raise the roof and bring heart and faith into the mix. Brent Decker and his orchestra's rendition of the wide variety of music is very good - as is Karyn Perry's choreography. The ensemble is uniformly good with many little highlights in the minor roles.

Special praise goes to director Katie Doyle and set designer Jeff Boerger (who also plays a small but pivotal role onstage). The logistics of the many scenes worked amazingly well with Jeff's beautiful, authentic barnwood set. It was realistic and evocative of the time period but at the same time flexible with simple, effective, fast-change devices (jail bars, café counter) that instantly created the many scenes required. The logistics of the violence and blood is well managed, so it's believable, in a theatrical way, but not so messy that it distracts us from the emotional spine of the show.

This is **SELLING OUT** - so make your reservations online now - and arrive early for the best seats. Continues through Sept. 29 Sept 19 - 22 & 26 - 29, 2013

Thursdays - Saturdays - 8pm

Sundays - 2pm - (and yes, it appears they **DO** have a Sunday matinee on the second weekend - not usual for PC.)

www.peppermintcreek.org