

Wild Party is an impressive portrait of an era

Local theatre review

By Jane Zussman

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The Wild Party, directed by Ben Cassidy at Peppermint Creek, is a “wild” —or should we say “roaring” 20’s — musical of decadence, with iconic characters attempting to counteract their boredom in the abandon of this party... maybe turn that boredom into despair? The last song is a poignant “How Did We Come To This?”



This is an impressive portrait of an era with dazzling costumes (Katy Kettles) a wonderful (if occasionally too loud) six piece orchestra led by John Dale Smith, and fabulous choreography by Karyn Perry.

Author Andrew Lipka based this script on a 1928 book length poem by Joseph Moncure March. “Some love is fire; some love is rust; but the fiercest, cleanest love is lust.” The poem was banned for lewd content (dramatically but tastefully presented onstage - still, PG-13, at least.)

Super Kudos to Sally Hecksel, ensemble member who stepped into the lead role of Queenie with very short notice and did a fantastic job. Bronsyn Lee Sacker has been struck with viral laryngitis and hopes to return for the second weekend. Those attending tomorrow (today?) will NOT be disappointed in Sally’s portrayal. Get-well wishes to Bronsyn.

Kameron Going is a powerful presence as the abusive clown “Burrs”; Brennan Hattaway charms and serenades as “Black”; Carly Jacobs gives her brassy best as “Kate,” and Laura Croff shines as “Madelaine” an amusing, alluring lesbian on the make. All have great voices and the whole cast is an impressive ensemble, especially in the group dances. (Dale Wayne Williams, Taylor Rupp, Robert Mueller, Jimmy McCormick, Boris Nikolovski, Racheal Raymer, Connor Kelly, Morgyn Weaver, Franky Nevin and Zach Whitlock.)

The Wild Party rages on through December 9

<http://www.peppermintcreek.org>