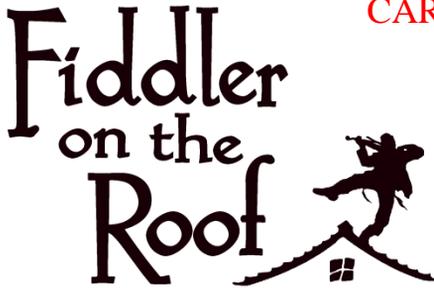




Review by:
Michael Polin

BRAVO sdTheatreReviews.com
OnLine Entertainment Magazine
Serving the ARTS Community
"Different Strokes - Different Folks"

CARLSBAD COMMUNITY THEATRE



PRESENTS

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

AUGUST 5-14, 2016



Director: Ric Henry

Musical Director: Jessie Bullock

Choreographer: Kathryn Baker

Book by: Joseph Stein

Music by: Jerry Bock

Lyrics by: Sheldon Harnick

Based on original Choreography and Direction: Jerome Robbins



Before we talk about the excellent show Ric and his team put on with this *innovative Fiddler* production, I would be remiss if I did not take a moment and remind our readers of the high level of talent and professionalism Ric and the entire Carlsbad team brings to each and every show.

The Carlsbad Community Theatre is a stellar organization with 33 years of producing premium and high quality shows with a NON EQUITY cast and I am sure that the upcoming **ELF THE MUSICAL** will be another one of those shows all ages will love.

Ok now back to **Fiddler on the Roof**.

The durability of this musical is always first and foremost the story and the music with the worldwide memorable songs "*Matchmaker*," "*If I Were a Rich Man*," "*Sunrise, Sunset*" to name a few but probably most importantly, the way the story invites us into the very human frailty of parenting combined with entrenched traditions of attitudes and long held habits that refuse to be changed....*but must in order to survive*.

We meet our old friend Tevye the milkman, and for us dads in the audience who have daughters, a guy who we feel has been with us since the beginning of time and shares in the same feelings all of us Dads with daughters seem to have. He is compassionate and scared and worried and stubborn...sound familiar to anyone out there??

I think this story is so well known and loved that it is always a little risky to produce it as the emotions have to be “just right”. I think Ric’s direction was spot on as he captured the most critical aspect of Tevye and the story which his warmth. Love, loss, and acceptance. This cast let the audience feel it with them. Ric delivered big time on this which really is at the heart of the work.

We know that this is a story ultimately of a father “letting go” of not just traditions he has always believed in but, alas for us fathers, lettering daughters with independent minds make life long decisions for themselves *which means truly letting go with all the fears and worries and love that goes with that*. Ric really allowed his actors to act in this show and their emotions were real, believable, and not contrived.

I have to stop and say that the entire **NON EQUITY cast** (cast A) was superb but as usual Carlsbad delivers stand out show stopping performances so let me tip the hat to a few.

Charles Hand (Tevye) who is just a great performer and lovely singer is making a comeback of sorts after a five year absence from performing on stage. Charles opening of the show with the traditional, *“Tradition” showcased his power and showmanship* and let the audience know this would be a special show. I loved the *dream chorus*, all who were outstanding and magical, with the leading star being **Lisa Shelby (Grandma Tzeitel)** who delivered eerily funny ghost humor!

Very special hats *off to the makeup artist Gabe Nunez and costume designer Sandy Shay who work miracles on such limited non-profit budgets.*

For me, I love the young talent in our great city and **Andrian Eagleston (Tzeitel the eldest daughter) and Lydia Schmidt (Hodel the second oldest daughter)** are excellent actors. Adrian’s wedding scene and facial expressions were very strong and had the audience rooting for her while Lydia’s voice chops were tight and right on note for note. She also has tremendous poise and for me, **“the one to watch for a future star”**.

Ultimately this is a story about how Tevye faces threats to his treasured sense of tradition with his daughter’s ideas of courtship and love and marriage and how traditions will clash with youth and life’s many changes that come swiftly and without notice. *In its saddest yet truest sense, Fiddler is a story of saying goodbye to old traditions but hello to new ones.*

I will close with Ric’s viewpoint that encompasses the true meaning of what this show and the Carlsbad Community Theatre are about. *“I am so honored to be part of this superb creative team. I believe we have gathered the best of the best to bring you a magical evening. We have*

assembled a cast that will make you laugh, bring a tear to your eye, and by the end of the show, bring you to your feet.”

Yes you did Ric, Great job!

More information on this show and tickets can be found at:

www.carlsbadcommunitytheatre.com

760-931-8709

More about Carlsbad Community Theatre

These are the type of shows San Diego needs more of and I would encourage all of our readers to donate a little here and a little there to support this fine organization, [Carlsbad Community Theatre](#).

The Patrons of the Arts Foundation, operating as Carlsbad Community Theatre, provides opportunities for North County San Diego residents of all ages to participate in high quality performing and visual activities. Their stated goals are to promote the arts by:

- Providing year-round cultural events at affordable prices.
- Developing a strong sense of community support for the Carlsbad Community Arts Center and its activities.
- Developing a broad base of financial support.
- Nurturing an appreciation of the arts among all segments of the community, particularly children and youth.
- Providing educational opportunities.
- Offering scholarships.

The Patrons of the Arts Foundation is a California non-profit corporation as defined by the IRS, section 501(c) (3).

