

A NIGHT OF BROADWAY Bursts Into the Barn

The mood of the evening was joyous as The Barn performers and staff were visibly thrilled to have an audience back and filling seats for A NIGHT OF BROADWAY. And most seats were filled. Ranging from kids to seniors, the audience seemed eager to return The Barn's masked hug. Selections presented during the evening included songs from over a dozen more current Broadway shows including INTO THE WOODS, RENT, and SHREK THE MUSICAL. An ensemble piece, the first number, "First Time in Forever," was a perfect welcome back choice and set the tone for the night as The Barn exuberantly relaunched itself in the wake of the pandemic.

While each song garnered enthusiastic applause, there were two numbers that really seemed to resonate with the audience. Vince Vuono delivered a warm-hearted and zealous "I Believe" that may have actually drawn a few converts to the BOOK OF MORMON. In Act 2, EmilyAnne McDermott's wistful and yearning "Once Upon a December" had listeners wanting her to grab hold of that elusive memory. The Lampheres also touched that wistful chord, father Tom with "You Will Be Found" and son Justin with "For Forever" both from DEAR EVAN HANSEN.

Girl Power was also in evidence with Julie Kremm rocking the merits of WICKED's "Popular" and Christine Furey defiantly and playfully asserting "I'd Rather Be Me." The ogres took the spotlight with Shrek Matt Bartolotta and Fiona Maddi Sloan pondering "Who I'd Be?" And Mormon duo Andrew Shepard and Tony Decarlo sang of the bright futures of "You & Me (But Mostly Me)." [Spoiler: Me.] Shanna Gates sparingly contemplated "A Change in Me" [different Me] and Sarah Folsom-Kovarik found herself likewise wondering what her future holds on the "Steps of the Palace."

A NIGHT OF BROADWAY was directed by Tom Lamphere, choreographed by Brittany Recupero and Maddi Sloan, and conducted by music director Robert Stoop, who also joined the ensemble. Proceeds from A NIGHT OF BROADWAY are earmarked for the building's capital fund. During the down time in 2020, The Barn made repairs and improvements but as a slide show reminded us, The Barn has a long history and is an old building.

A NIGHT OF BROADWAY is a reminder of what is so enjoyable about community theater - performers shared songs they love and the musical gift was gratefully received by an audience that was happy to be back. Only criticism would be that a slight technical adjustment on some headsets might help. Some of the sustained high notes on ladies' belter songs seemed to overwhelm the mics.

A NIGHT OF BROADWAY runs from September 17 - September 25th. Tickets are available at the Dramateurs at the Barn website. Evening show starts at 7:30pm. Remember that masks are currently mandatory. <https://www.barnplayhouse.org/>

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