

'A Chorus Line' an Interesting Commentary on Show Business

Last night's show at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center was sold out, as is tonight's second performance.

By KRISTEN FIORE
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Dancers clad in various styles of leotards, crop tops, tights, sweaters and skirts took to the stage to show they had what it takes to be a Broadway dancer.

But the auditions weren't about the show they all hoped to be in — the story was in the people auditioning.

Michael Bennett's "A Chorus Line" is an interesting commentary on the hardships of show business and the individuality of each performer.

Chorus lines are typically synchronized, uniformed and overlooked, but the people who make up those chorus lines each have a story.

Big League Productions, Inc. put on a "A Chorus Line" on Wednesday night at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Plot

As a large group of people is narrowed during auditions for places on a chorus line in a Broadway show, the audience gets a peek into the minds and stories of those auditioning.

When the group is narrowed to 17 dancers, the choreographer asks them to introduce themselves.

As the show unfolds, the dancers tell stories about their families, sexualities, hometowns and career goals.

All have faced the struggles of finding jobs, paying the bills and dealing with rejection.

It is known that the 17 dancers will be reduced to four boys and four girls, but who makes it in the end isn't what "A Chorus Line"

is about.

Cassie, an ex-girlfriend of Zach, the choreographer, has to try even harder than the others because of her strange dynamic with Zach.

Cassie once made it big, but her career failed when she tried to take things to Hollywood, so she came back to New York to start over.

"I would be proud to be one of them," Cassie told Zach. "They're wonderful."

"But you're special," Zach said.

"No," Cassie said. "They're all special."

Set

With the play taking place during auditions, the set was simple.

The biggest part was the mirrors used as the backdrop. They could be turned around to reveal a wall, or turned at different angles to give the dances an interesting look.

Like any production, there were changes in lighting and backdrops, but the focus was on the actors.

Music

Every performer in the cast of "A Chorus Line" was a talented singer, dancer and actor.

Each had the ability to dance as if he or she had just learned the routine, emotionally tell a story as if it was their own and sing their hearts out.

The performance featured musical routines such as "What I Did For Love," "The Music and the Mirror" and "Sing!"

Audience Reaction

Wednesday's show was sold out, and another sold-out show is tonight.

The audience laughed, cried and gave a standing ovation at the end.

"It was really good," said Cathye Leshay, of the Village of Briar Meadow. "I thought this was fabulous. They did an excellent job."



Submitted photo

Performers in "A Chorus Line" put on an impressive show before a capacity crowd Wednesday night at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Another sold-out show is scheduled for tonight.

For Leshay and her friend, Gay McCants, of the Village of Belle Aire, the show was an opportunity to relive some memories.

Leshay and McCants were in a Villages Theater Company production of "A Chorus Line" a few years ago.

"We had the top hats and the gold sequins," Leshay said. "We did the exact same thing."

Leshay said seeing the professional show was unbelievable.

"We knew every single word and dance," she said.

"We were just sitting there singing the songs," McCants said.

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