

Review by Lise Lieder Miller on Facebook, March 25, 2017

Though I haven't seen all the shows at HCAF, I've seen many musicals & this is the best production I've seen at ThePoint in years. The edit of the basic play was masterful, the singing & acting talents were wonderfully balanced from the Principals to the Chorus. With the large Summer Musicals, some weaker voices can be hidden in the chorus but **GODSPELL** is a true ensemble with each cast member carrying a portion of the dialogue & singing.

This production captures the playful, innocent fun & youth of the play authentically without forcing. The supporting cast are believable as genuine students (falling short in challenges & trial like real young people & learning to do better) , with grateful affection for their teacher & his message. The upbeat message (especially in the 1st Act) & uptempo pace with strong renditions of the favorite songs like "Prepare Ye (The Way of The LORD) ", "Day by Day", "All for the Best" & Turn Back, Oh Man" mean it's all the audience can do NOT to join in & sing along. This is the show that young & old fall in love with & entertain fantasies of a free-spirited lifestyle that turns away from material wealth & status. For some, it's a reminder of when we were all wide-eyed idealists before the stresses of life complicated everything.

You can become young at heart by identifying with one of more of the characters for a while. When we have laughed with & come to care for the characters, Act II waters the eyes because you know the sorrow that looms.

Fortuitously the yards of blood-red streamers were eerily blown by the wind from the front that blew in Opening Night, Friday, & mesmerizingly mimicked flowing liquid.

Sometimes in a modern play with contemporary characters who are supposed to represent genuine people, the casualness is forced but Director Sara D. was able to get her cast to avoid the flatness of actors TRYING to be "Natural" or the uncomfortable , well-practiced artifices of actors trying to show the audience how they are "being themselves/ not acting" which usually convey a palpable tension & artificiality.

The decision to use the fabulous al fresco Amphitheatre which sits on the scenic banks of the Guadalupe River with a river view for the audience in the wonderful spring weather instead of just the summer was a winner. It gives performers & audience comfortable temperatures plus allows the curtain to rise an hour earlier, which many appreciate.

The DinnerAndAShow deal with the EncoreRestaurant is too good to pass up:

Riverside dining with a inventive food combinations or the Awesome StonehengeBurger is often Sold Out on Show nights but reserve a place if you can. A nosh & a beverage (good selections of beer/wine) are just perfect before a live performance & the #HillCountry weather makes outdoor dining so inviting this time of year.

You will be sorry if you miss this show at Ingram's PointTheatre.