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I approached Thursday's preview performance of Quad City Music Guild's *Grease* with preconceived opinions, not the least of which was that *Grease* is one of the few stage musicals that greatly improved in its transition to film. Not one of the half-dozen or so stage productions of this 1950's-themed high school musical I'd seen convinced me that the show was much good in its theatrical form; at best, I hoped for some notable performances in a musical I *still* wouldn't like. I didn't expect that great performances from the entire cast would have me re-thinking my entire opinion of *Grease*. They did.

Directed by Harold Truitt, much of the thrill of Music Guild's production lies in its pacing, especially in the first act. The show reached intermission before I expected it, leaving me a bit disappointed that I had to *wait* to continue on this fantastic theatrical ride. The second act hits a few minor pacing bumps, with lengthier scene changes and dialogue passages accompanying the plot holes and less linear storyline developments - some of the reasons I've long disliked the show. Yet while it was less well-paced in spots, Act II had no less energy than Act I, and carried this romping good time through to the end.

Written by Thom White
Monday, 12 July 2010 06:00

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