

TOP RESTAURANTS Meal Deals [Click for Deals](#)

FairfaxTimes.com

[Weather](#) [Traffic](#)

[Advanced Search](#)



[Autos](#) | [Homes](#) | [Merchandise](#) | [Services](#) | [Announcements & Legals](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Calendar](#) | [Coupons](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [RSS](#)

Tuesday March 2, 2010

'Chicago' opens with a bang

Longest-running musical performed at Alexandria's Little Theatre through March 20

by David Hoffman | Special to the Times

[E-mail this article](#) \ [Print this article](#)

More News

- [Times Q&A: Herndon gymnast Maria Hayden](#)
- [Burglary victims relieved to see one trial move forward](#)
- [Two pedestrians killed in series of traffic accidents](#)
- [State notes](#)
- [Candidates for House of Delegates target wasteful spending](#)
- [Firm sets up communications for Red Cross in Haiti](#)

Visitors to the Little Theatre of Alexandria on Friday night were so captivated by the opening performance of "Chicago" it closed with two standing ovations instead of one -- and rightfully so.

"Chicago," the longest-running musical in history, has moved to the Little Theatre of Alexandria as a deserved smash hit.

After the curtain fell, the audience was so enthralled with the performance they rose in unison to cheer

the cast, and then followed it with full-throated approval for the 22-member orchestra, playing the Chicago Band under the baton of conductor and musical director Paul Nasto.

Though "Chicago" is playing at the LTA through March 20, if permitted it could run for weeks or even months. It is that superb.

In "Chicago," which first debuted on Broadway in 1973 and later was morphed into the Oscar-winning film of the same title in 2002, viewers are treated to the grimmest of satires of corruption in our criminal justice system, set in Prohibition-era Chicago, but with its evocation of our fascination with "celebrity criminals" also quite familiar in our own era as recently as the O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson trials.

The songs, with music by the legendary John Kander and book and lyrics by his partner Fred Ebb, include such memorable items as "All That Jazz," "When You're Good to Mama," "Mister Cellophane," and "Razzle-Dazzle."

"Chicago" is dominated by Velma Kelley and Roxie Hart, two inmates performed to New York-quality standout by Bethany Blakey, a recent Iowa-transplant, and Jordan Hougham of Alexandria.

Velma is a vaudevillian who murdered her husband and sister when she found them together in bed. In the hands of Blakey, with her luxuriant mane of red hair and her leggy sexuality, Velma's looks are a roadmap to a cheap motel and all that goes with it.

Then there is Roxie, who murders her lover and tries to shift the blame to her innocent and still love-struck dim-bulb husband Amos. Roxie, played by Hougham with Kewpie doll looks and a gimlet eye for trashy celebrity, is on the make for any shred of status, even vulgar notoriety.

These two bad girls are so bad they are good at it. And they each boast a voice big enough to reach a Broadway theatre back row and make you simply wish for more.

Then there is the seedy defense lawyer Billy Flynn, played with sly delight by local actor-singer Andy Izquierdo who soars in his scene-stealing song "Razzle-Dazzle," and the steely Jennifer Strand as the jail's Matron, who joins with Velma to belt out the show-stopping song "Class." Jon Keeling, playing the role of hapless husband fall guy Amos, delivers a breakthrough performance. Typecast as a perfect schmo, he makes "boring" come poignantly alive.



Shane Canfield/Little Theatre of Alexandria
Daniel McKay, Jordan Hougham and Ivan Davila ham it up during a recent production of "Chicago," playing at the Little Theatre of Alexandria through March 20.

CENTREVILLE CROSSING
TOWNHOME-STYLE GARAGE CONDOS
FROM THE \$280s

CLOSING COSTS PAID* CLICK HERE NOW!

*restrictions apply

RYLAND HOMES
Live Life. Even Better.™

FEATURED AUTOS

- 2010 SILVERADO K1500 LT
Pohanka Chevrolet
- 2010 ALTIMA Nissan of Chantilly
- 2010 MURANO S/SL/LE Nissan of Chantilly
- 2010 TITAN XE/SE/LE/PRO-4X
Nissan of Chantilly

[See all auto ads](#)

TOP JOBS

LANDSCAPE FOREMEN -
Meadows Farms in Chantilly VA.

Clerical/Office Support
Sterling VA wholesale man.

Emerald Ash Borer Survey
Trappers (10 positions) .

FIRE ALARM SERVICE
DISPATCHER/PM Min.
NICET Level.

[See all jobs](#)

TOP RESTAURANTS
Meal Deals

[Click for Deals](#)

Choreographer Amy Carson, who teaches dance at LTA's school as well as the Joy of Motion dance studio, said she was inspired indelibly by the show's original choreographer, Bob Fosse, and said that "tackling Chicago is my dream come true."

Chicago

Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria

Playing through March 20

Showtimes are at 8 p.m.

Wednesdays and Thursdays, \$18

Fridays and Saturdays, \$21

Sunday matinees, \$20

Box office: 703-683-0496 or www.thelittletheatre.com

Affiliated Sites:

[Gazette.Net](#) | [Homes.Gazette.Net](#) | [dcmilitary.com](#) | [SoMdNews.Com](#)

Copyright © 2010 Post-Newsweek Media, Inc./FairfaxTimes.com
[Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Place Classified Ad](#)