



Check out the 'Misbehavin' in San Jose

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"Fats" Waller is the subject of the Tony Award-winning musical revue "Ain't Misbehavin'"

The "Fats" Waller musical "Ain't Misbehavin'" has been jazz's pre-eminent stage ambassador for going on 30 years now. Suffice it to say, the music has been well served by the show's integrity and enduring popularity.

Based on an idea by Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby, Jr., the Tony Award-winning "Ain't Misbehavin'" has been praised for its ability to entertain even as it takes audiences inside the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and '30s, showcasing all the triumphs and strife inherent in the African-American culture of that time and place.

All that certainly holds true for the production opening Friday at San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio. It runs through April 18; for video of director Kent Gash discussing the show, click [here](#). To see Waller singing the tune, check out the clip below.

Audiences can expect to see a company of five talented singers and dancers and some wailing musicians running through such Waller staples as "Honeysuckle Rose," "Black & Blue," "The Joint is Jumpin,'" "I've Got a Feeling I'm Falling" and, of course, the title tune.

As for that famous number, here's what JazzStandards.com tells us about its origins.

"Ain't Misbehavin'" was introduced at Connie's Inn in Harlem during the opening of the all-black musical revue, "Hot Chocolates." The show proved such a success that it moved onto Broadway, opening at the Hudson Theatre on June 20, 1929, and running for 219 performances. At the Hudson ... at intermission, Louis Armstrong, in his Broadway debut, took to the stage to play "Ain't Misbehavin'" as a trumpet solo.

In David Ewen's book, "American Songwriters: An H.W. Wilson Biographical Dictionary," Andy Razaf divulges, "I remember one day going to Fats' house to finish up a number based on a little strain he thought up. The whole show was complete, but they needed an extra number for a theme and this had to be it. He worked on it for 45 minutes and there it was - 'Ain't Misbehavin'."

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