



The joint gets jumpin' at the Rep with Fats Waller show

By Heather Zimmerman

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Ain't Misbehavin' ain't kidding around: This show, one of the first modern jukebox musicals to hit Broadway, is still one of the very best.

Ain't Misbehavin', based on an idea by Murray Horowitz and Richard Maltby Jr., is a celebration of the classic jazz music of Thomas Wright Waller, better known as Fats Waller.

San Jose Repertory Theatre is "spreadin' rhythm around" with a production of this Tony Award-winning musical revue, which runs through April 18 at the Rep, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose. Ain't Misbehavin' is a co-production with the Arizona Theatre Company and the Cleveland Play House.

A top-notch pianist and the composer of many a 1920s and '30s hit, Waller, sadly, was not long-lived, but his music has endured for decades. Waller was at the height of his fame during the Harlem Renaissance, and Ain't Misbehavin' delves into the African American experience during the early 20th century, and its ups and decided downs.

The musical features 30 of Waller's songs, including "The Joint is Jumpin'," "Black & Blue," "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter," and now-standards like "Honeysuckle Rose," "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie," and of course, the show's title song. A small ensemble cast of five performers bring these well-loved tunes to life. The Rep's production is directed by Kent Gash.

Ain't Misbehavin' opened on Broadway in 1978 and won the Tony Award for best musical, and a Tony for Nell Carter. The musical was such a hit that the original Broadway cast was reunited four years later for a television broadcast of Ain't Misbehavin'.

Tickets are \$35-\$74. For more information, call 408.367.7255 or www.sjrep.com.