

Beautiful Music Rocks Baby, Be Mine

By Cathy Tyson and Jennifer Wake



From left, Katie Pelensky, Meghann May and Sean Griffin in "Baby, Be Mine" Photo Stu Stelland

Writer and Director Kevin Morales' original and final production for the Town Hall Theatre (THT) *Baby, Be Mine* debuted last Friday.

Morales deftly weaves the story of a chorus girl pitching an idea to her producer while two characters act out her pitch against a backdrop of New York in the 1930's. The layers of storytelling coupled with excellent song choices added a unique dimension to the production. The period music and the cast's melodious singing voices help flesh out the sparse set with great music from a great time.

"Don't Get Around Much Anymore" and "Putting on the Ritz" were accompanied by lots of audience toe tapping, and served double duty moving the plot forward. A duet between Nephi Speer, who plays "The Composer" and Meghann May, "The Muse" on "Happy Days are Here Again," showcased these actor's substantial vocal talents. Fans of Cole Porter and Irving Berlin won't be disappointed.

Speer and May give convincing performances as the 1930's characters act out their love story. There's a

funny scene set in the present day between Katie Pelensky "The Actress" and Sean Robert Griffin "The Producer" as they collaborate on picking names for the 30's actors. The small cast, just four people, do a good job with the underlying themes of adultery and lost love. Underscoring the simple unadorned style was a single piano player who hit all the right notes.

"I wanted to create something more traditional, but I still can't help throwing in a twist, structuring the show in a way that doesn't make it a typical revue. It's a sexy fun show that I think lots of people will enjoy," said Morales.

For Griffin, May, and Playwrite and Director Morales this will be their last show at Town Hall Theatre. They all will be departing for the bright lights of Broadway after *Baby, Be Mine* wraps.

Performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings through June 28 at 8:00, call or check the web for dates of Sunday matinees and evening shows (925) 283-6673 or www.thtc.org. Not for children under 12.