

WHADDYA KNOW – WE'RE IN LOVE!

Reviews May 2018

Fringe REVIEW: Whadd'ya Know – we're in love! @Rialto Theatre

Posted On 10 May 2018

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Tag: Brighton Fringe, David Mountfield, Foundry group, Glen Richardson, Jerry Ruff, Review Brian Butler, Rialto Theatre, Whadd'ya Know – we're in love!

If you need an antidote to world politics and Brexit, then slip back in time to the era of Hope, Crosby and the Marx Brothers and join the ocean liner *Freedonia* with its motley trio of musicians Joey, Lenny and Mikey – who are not at all what they pretend to be.

ADD in the diva Sam, who may be a stowaway but maybe not and you have an hour-long musical romp with period style songs, jolly and silly lyrics, sharp-shooting dialogue and an impossible happy ending.

The four principals, who all play musical instruments, share a variety of roles and **David Mountfield** excels as the Fatty Arbuckle look-alike really stupid drummer Mikey one minute and the next he is the ferocious First Officer who sings a wonderful tirade about hating music – “*when I see a deaf guy I wish it was me.*”

Glen Richardson who plays a great piano is also hilarious as the unbelievably rich and lovelorn Prince Frederico XIII, in a terrible wig and even worse wayward moustache. The prince saves the bacon of the fake musicians and sets them up for life. It's that kind of barmy plot.

The songs by **Jerry Ruff**, who plays the guitar-playing love interest in the show, are all clever parodies with a sharp sarcastic edge. Amy Sutton as the sultry singing siren is terrific in her delivery and though she plays the field we know she will end up with the right man, even though he avows that he wants Sam to give up her singing career and become his property .

As one character says: *Hank's my stage name; my real name is Nelson but you can call me Joey.*”

If that kind of silliness is up your street, this is a show not to be missed. A real treat.

Whadd'ya know – we're in love! is at the **Rialto Theatre** on May 14 , 23 and 24.

Reviewed by Brian Butler

Sussex Playwrights

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Sussex Playwrights Reviews:

'Whaddaya Know - We're In Love!'

The Foundry Group

The Rialto Theatre

The team that brought you the hit show Ministry of Biscuits, currently on a rural tour, now pauses to premiere a great potential new addition to The Foundry Group's touring repertoire.

Four actors, a bunch of instruments and the occasional stuffed seagull have a ball performing this screwball comedy musical, with terrific original vintage-style songs by Jerry Rulf, now gathered together with book by Brian Mitchell.

Three guys on the run have stowed away on a 1930s Mediterranean cruise ship and have to pose as a music quartet to escape detection ... spot the problem?

Enter Amy Sutton, sashaying in as Sam, the girl in the green velvet dress, in full sultry smoky-toned mode - and Jerry Rulf's laconic Joey's a gonner.

Rulf and Sutton - mostly - rise above the lunacy, as shades of the Marx Brothers and some bonkers character doubling kick in around them.

David Mounfield and Glen Richardson duck behind the curtain to re-emerge in mad new character, Mounfield channelling TopCat's Benny the Ball as Mikey and in full rant mode as music-loathing Chief Officer Brown. Richardson has real piano and singing flair as Lenny, and whips up audience near hysteria with recalcitrant fake moustache and crazed Italian accent as lovelorn Euro aristo Prince Frederick XIII.

Everyone sings and plays, getting a buzzing Rialto Theatre into full party mood plus audience participation - just try stopping us ...

It's great good hearted fun performed in a tiny space; as with last year's Ministry of Biscuits I'd love to see it on a bigger stage, although the intimate setting does add to the general chaos.

Whaddaya You Know is back at the Rialto 14th, 23rd & 24th May.

Philippa Hammond