



PROVIDED PHOTO
Timothy Fuchs, as Bobby, is joined by (clockwise, from top) Ali Gritz, Katie Quigley, Aisling Halpin, Kierstin Elliott and Amy Lambert.

CHRISTOPHER TOWER
For The Enquirer

The Tibbits Summer Theatre has made its reputation with revivals of golden oldies as well as solid contemporary shows. In "Crazy for You," the professional summer stock has found both.

This show features classic musical sensibilities set to the music of the Gershwins and Astaire-Rogers tap dancing era, but is updated for contemporary audiences winning a Tony for Best Musical in 1992. Though at times a little unsteady on its feet, a strong cast and even

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stronger direction and choreography gives Tibbits another hit in what is shaping up to be a strong 47th season.

"Crazy for You" is a reworking of a 1930 Gershwin show called "Girl Crazy," which was later made into a 1943 film with Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney. Ken Ludwig, known for "Lend Me A Tenor" and "Leading Ladies," retooled the Gershwin classic with a whole new story and songs that

SEE **TIBBITS, 3D**

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** "Crazy for You," presented by Tibbits Professional Summer Theatre.
- **WHEN:** 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 2 p.m. matinee Wednesday.
- **WHERE:** Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater.
- **COST:** \$12 to \$26.
- **INFO:** For tickets or more information, visit www.tibbits.org, or call the box office at 517-278-6029 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

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drove the plot forward. The original score featured Gershwin classics, such as "I Got Rhythm," "But Not For Me" and "Embraceable You," but Ludwig also added "Nice Work if You Can Get It," "Someone To Watch Over Me" and "They Can't Take That Away From Me." These revisions resulted in a Broadway run of more than 1,600 performances and a three-year run in London's West End.

Son of a banker, Bobby Childs (played by Timothy Fuchs) yearns to dance on Broadway, but can't catch a break. Hounded by his shrill fiancée, Irene (Tif-

fany Wiesend), Bobby takes his mother's (Gloria Logan) offer to foreclose on a theater in Deadrock, Nevada.

Upon arriving in the small, desert town, Bobby falls in love with the theater owner's daughter, Polly Baker (Ali Gritz). Forsaking the foreclosure, he sets out to save the theater by producing a show. Polly, however, hates him for being from the bank, so Bobby poses as a New York producer and earns Polly's affections without her knowing his true identity.

Of course, by Act Two, all the New Yorkers have

come out to Nevada. In the end, four couples form, and all's well that ends well.

The show's plot is thin, and the humor is corny, but the music and dancing more than compensate. Set to direction and choreography by director Kevin Halpin and musical direction by Cheryl Van Duzen, the performers carry off this delightful musical with only a little teetering and wobbling. The company of follies girls and Deadrock cowboys dance well enough, though at times there's some stumbles.

But these mishaps can be forgiven as staging a show of mostly tap dancing in a small theater in Coldwater, Michigan, is a feat of remarkable ambition and chutzpah.

Fuchs and Gritz make up for whatever the minor flaws of the company with

powerful, ovation-producing performances. The pair is outstanding at both singing and dancing, and they perform with believability and genuine intentions.

Greg Prager also shines as Lank Hawkins, especially when paired with a firebrand like Wiesend. Kiersten Vorheis and Paul Kerr also deserve kudos as the British tourists and their endearing duet in Act Two: "Stiff Upper Lip."

"Crazy for You" is everything a musical should be: plenty of romance, corny humor, skillful dancing, and sterling-clear singing of superb music. With high production values that Tibbits is known for, this show is a fun musical experience for the whole family.

Christopher Tower is a freelance writer and theater reviewer.

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