

Nothing like 'South Pacific' for crowd-pleaser

By BARBARA MICHAIS

According to the critics of *South Pacific*, there is nothing like a dance and there is nothing like an old-fashioned musical to bring a crowd to a theater.

The charming, old-fashioned *South Pacific* is the only musical to have won the Pulitzer Prize for drama and the Tony Award for best musical.

The plot of the musical is set in the South Pacific during World War II. It tells the story of two American soldiers who fall in love with two native girls.

Under the direction of Gail M. Turner and musical director Marlene Jacobs, the production is a beautiful one. The set design is excellent, and the costumes are beautiful. The music is beautiful, and the lyrics are beautiful. The production is a beautiful one.

ENGLISH, NELLIE: English, a naive young nurse, falls in love with Emile DeBeque, a middle-aged French painter with a shady past. On

floating their future as DeBeque's two children from his first marriage.

14 Joseph Cable, a young marine, is sent to the island. He falls in love with Liat, a beautiful native girl, but finds it hard to face the prospect of an interracial marriage.

The actors' pleasant voices and high spirits are a pleasure to the show's many fans. As Emile DeBeque, Jack Griffin has the role of a lifetime. He has the beautiful, some enchanted evening.

ten years makes a convincing Nellie Forbach and vocalizes best in a lively rendition of "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair."

Andy Harty's Lt. Cable is sensitive and touching. Harty's voice is a bit weak in "Younger Than Springtime," but comes across strong and effective in "You've Got to Be Taught," the song that conveys the show's anti-racism theme.

As Emily, Mary-Lynn's strong, convincing mother, Mary Vergason plays the comic role with pleasant understatement. While Gertie has the strongest voice in the show, Miss Vergason is the most consistent in numbers like "Bali Hai" and

Entertainment

"Happy Talk"

HAL DOYLE: looks a bit young to play the shrewd Father Bully, an experienced Native who knows all the angles, but Doyle has the comedic flair to pull it off. He leads the chorus of Seaters in a spirited version of "There Is Nothing Like a Dance" and makes an hilarious appearance in drag for "Honeybun."

In supporting roles, Les Harwell and Phil Embury are convincing as the commanding officers. Paula Burkholder is a charming Liat, and Dan Hugenski adds to the comedy as Skipper, one of the Seaters. The four other youngsters, Rochelle and Buland, are engaging as the DeBeque children.

Throughout the fast-paced show, Will O'Way cast makes it apparent that they are having a thoroughly good time presenting *South Pacific*, and that feeling quickly spreads to the audience.

As often happens at Will O'Way, the only flaw is in a singularly unimaginative and unattractive set.

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