

'Dames at Sea' fun-filled spoof

By ETHEL SIMMONS

'Dames at Sea' spoof of 1930s Hollywood and Broadway musicals is the kind of show that sends its message by not having one.

The six-member company of three gals and three guys, all nicely paired up at the final curtain, makes the most of the sprightly show at Meadow Brook Theatre.

It's a backstage story of a sweet young thing from Centerville, Utah, who comes to Broadway and becomes a star overnight. There are heartaches along the way, but we recognize them all in lovable clichés. No struggling chorus-line hooper, this dancing cutie with china-blue eyes and tapping toes gets her big break one night after the other.

Marcia Lynn Watkins is blonde Joanie, a tough young trooper. Corinne Kason is the glamorous, dark-haired star of "Dames at Sea," which is the name of the show they're putting on.

You see, it's a show within a show. Remember that plot? And there's a boy from Centerville, too, blond, well-scrubbed, portrayed by Kevin Daly. As Dick, he is the boy with show-business dreams who meets Joanie and taps his way into Ruby's heart.

It's love at first sight for the true-blue pair, and Ruby wears lots of blue that make her eyes even more incredibly blue. The conflict comes when Mona Vamps Dick, who wants her to sing the songs he has written.

JOANIE'S BOYFRIEND is named Lucky, played by Dennis Bailey. Dark curly-haired Bailey is Dick's engaging Navy buddy, who moves with a dancer's athletic grace.

Ruby's most delightful number is "It's Raining in My Heart," a big production with the cast all in blue slickers and umbrellas with rhinestones. Silver strips of rain that descend abruptly are welcomed with laughter.

There are lots of other good numbers, most of the show being song and tap dance. Mona and the Captain of the battleship, where the show finally goes on, are long-separated lovers who reunite to sing "Those Nights of Splendor in Pensacola."

Thom Bray is top-notch in both his role as the crotchety stage manager of "Dames at Sea" and as the Captain. "Cupid Doll" Courageous.

When he and Mona dance the beguine, she in red and black Spanish lace, he matches her suggestiveness with his drool facial expressions that change with the variety of a comic-strip character.

JOAN, AND LUCKY have a nice turn on "Choo Choo Honeycomb," and Ruby and Dick get together when they first meet, on the love duet, "It's You," wind up singing together again by the end of the show in "Let's Have a Simple Little Wedding."

Just a few more of the numbers worth mentioning are Mona's money-worth mentioning are Mona's money-worth opener "Wall Street" and "Singapore Sue" among one of those Oriental dens of iniquity.

"Dames at Sea" continues a five-week run the show has been extend-

ed one week) through May 22. The Off-Broadway hit features book and lyrics by George Hainsohn and Robin Miller, music by Jim Wise.

Director Don Price choreographed all the snappy musical numbers. Costumes by Mary Lynn Bonnell are nostalgic and charming. Peter Hick's sets include the deck of a nice big battleship, where guns roar at the finale.

Appearance rescheduled

The family show group "Relation" has been rescheduled to appear on WWJ-TV, Channel 4, at 9 a.m. May 6, instead of an earlier date previously announced.

"Relation" is composed of seven brothers and sisters who are all members of the Barnowski family of Bloomfield Township. They range in age from 12 to 23.

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