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Flurries of fun Troubies' 'Frosty the Snow Manilow' offers loads of laughter and good cheer

By LA Theater Examiner, Candyce Columbus
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The Troubadour Theater Company is at it again with a new laugh-packed Christmas confection, their fractured telling of a holiday cartoon favorite, **Frosty the Snow Manilow**. As the title implies all the music save the original **Frosty the Snowman** song uses **Barry Manilow's** hits with custom-crafted lyrics by director **Matt Walker** and the Troubies. The show opened on **Friday, December 11 at the Falcon Theatre and continues through January 17, 2010.**

Charmer from start to finish the show features a highly energetic and uniformly talented cast, vivid **set design by Sherry Santillano**, Crayola crayon colorful **costumes and wigs by Sharon McGunigle** and a **super hot band featuring Musical Director Eric Heinly on drums, Tori Ruffin on guitar, Thomas Drayton on bass and Kevin McCourt on keyboards.**

Vocal Director Rachael Lawrence ensured that the cast made the most of re-imagined "fanilow" favorites such as *Can't Smile Without You, Could It Be Magic, Ready To Take A Chance Again, Bandstand Boogie, Mandy* and of course, *Copacabana*.



Identical twins **Frosty (Paul C. Vogt)** and **Crystal (Peter Allen Vogt)** frequently steal scenes, which is hard to do considering the hilarious antics of everyone else on the stage

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including **Rick Batalla** as Station Master and Jack Frost, **Christine Lakin** as Karen and **Walker** as the bad guy magician Hinkle who is intent on retrieving his "magical hat" regardless of what it does to poor Frosty.

Lorin Shapiro was way too fun as Hocus the indiscriminately humping bunny rabbit. Fans of **FX's *Rescue Me*** will enjoy seeing a different side of Chief Reilly with **Jack McGee's** portrayal of "storyteller" Jack and a Santa resembling a cross between Buffalo Bill and Colonel Sanders. He can sing and dance, too!

Beth Kennedy returns as the Winter Warlock with well-delivered quips, zings and balloon tricks.

Nadine Ellis and **Ameenah Kaplan** choreographed acrobatic and inventive dances performed with grace and style by **Popsicles Molly Alvarez, Jill Morrison, Leah Specher** and **Lisa Valenzuela**; and **Joseph Keane (Kevin/Animal), Jimmy Lambert (Kyle/Animal), Andy Lopez (Keith/Animal), Mike Lulprizio (Cop)** and the rest of the cast.

Sound Designer Robert Arturo Ramirez and his crew got into the act to funny effect and so did **Stage Manager Core Womack's** crew. And always lots of ad-libbing and topical references peppered the production.

Make sure to get there on time and turn off your cell phone . . . or else!

*Frosty The Snow Man*ilow performs **8 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 4 and 8 p.m., Saturday and 4 and 7 p.m. Sunday through January 17.** No performances December 24, 25, 31 and January 1, 2010. **Tickets are \$27.50-\$30 previews, \$35.50-\$35 Wednesday and Thursday and \$37.50 and \$40. Call 818-955-8004 ext. 133.**

The Falcon Theatre is located at 4252 Riverside Drive in Burbank.

Send questions, comments and suggestions to columbuscommunications@yahoo.com.

Photos by Chelsea Sutton—(top right) Frosty (Paul C. Vogt) and Crystal (Peter Allen Vogt); (left center) Winter Warlock (Beth Kennedy), Hinkle (Matt Walker), Karen (Christine Lakin) and Santa (Jack McGee).

For a related article: <http://www.examiner.com/x-5326-LA-Theater-Examiner~y2009m11d27-Ensure-a-very-merry-holiday-and-see-Frosty-The-Snow-Manilow>

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