

REVIEW: Singing cowboys 'laugh out loud funny'*Gloria O'Donnell Chambersburg Public Opinion*

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Cowboys and cowgirls will want to pull on their boots and get "Back in the Saddle Again," joining other singing cowboy fans at the Totem Pole Playhouse's production of "Chaps! - The Musical" on stage now through June 17 at Totem Pole Playhouse, 9555 Golf Course Road, located in Caledonia State Park, Fayetteville.

"Chaps! - The Musical" not only includes tunes which are reminiscent of the "Sons of the Pioneers," Gene Autry and Tex Ritter, but is also laugh-out-loud funny.

The staff of BBC in London, England, played by Kevin Kraft, Sean Fri, Robert Brown, J.J. Kaczynski, Erin Lindsey Krom and Bradley Wayne Smith, with only a few minutes' notice, try to pull together a Western roundup show for live broadcast on the British Broadcasting Corporation in the midst of World War II. Challenged by the fact that they are all English and have no clue about the American West, "Chaps! The Musical" delivers hilarious antics and scenarios. There are just a few serious moments as the war closes in on them and they struggle to finish their show.

The "Western Roundup," which is the centerpiece of this show's story line, imitates the popular variety radio shows which featured Western hit songs, such as: "Tumblin' Tumbleweeds," "Cool Water," and "I'm An Ol' Cowhand." Respectfully representing the legacy of the singing cowboys, "Chaps! The Musical" evokes memories of a time when folks gathered 'round the radio to hear those lonesome cowboy tunes. Ten-gallon hats, glitzy outfits, one-liners and cowboy hero stories combine to keep the performance fast-paced and appealing.

The ensemble cast complement each other well, and audiences will be surprised and delighted with the stand-out performances by Sean Fri and Robert Brown, portraying Leslie and Miles.

"Chaps!-The Musical" is appropriate for all family members. Showtime is 8 p.m. each evening , with matinees on Saturday and Sunday, through June 17, 2012 at the Totem Pole Playhouse, 9555 Golf Course Road, Caledonia State Park, Fayetteville. For more information, contact the box office at 717-352-2164, 888-805-7056 or visit their Web site at: <http://www.totempoleplayhouse.org>.