

show listings: musicals

Das Barbecu

THEATRE

West End, 263 West 86th Street

OPENED

July 30, 2002

CLOSED

August 11, 2002

PERFORMANCES

Tue - Sat at 8pm; Sun at 2pm

RUNNING TIME

2 hours, 15 minutes

TICKETS

\$15

[SmartFix](#)

212-206-1515

CAST

Keralee Clay, Kevin Kraft, David Gaspin, Stephanie Lyng, Courtney Morris

BOOK & LYRICS

Jim Luigs

MUSIC

Scott Warrender

DIRECTED &

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

John Gray

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Barbara J. Anselmi

LIGHTING

Matt Grantz

STAGE MANAGER

Jessica Pecharsky

PRODUCER

The Impressionistic Theatre Company

Opera buffs beware! The relatively new Impressionistic Theater Company is presenting a delightful spoof of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* that sparkles, entertains and delights. A cast of five talented performers plus an exuberant trio of musicians transform 33 hours of opera into a rousing 2-1/4 hours of sheer fun.

Das Barbecu was originally commissioned by the Seattle Opera in 1991 and has been seen in various venues since. This rollicking romp set in present day Texas hits all the high spots in the story of Brunhilde and Siegfried and the search for the golden ring. The Valkyrie, the Rivermaidens, Wotan and Guttrune and Alberich the dwarf all live in Texas and there are Giants, too. And the folk tale is told at super speed and it works.

A cast of five portrays 29 different roles. No trouble identifying who they are cause the audience easily recognizes their outlandish wigs and quickly learns that Brunhilde is the one in the simple cowgirl outfit while Guttrune is clad in a tight body suit with wedding veil and train attached. The lickety split costume changes keep the pace of the show at a gallop. John Gray, directing in New York for the first time, times everything to perfection.

Das Barbecu is more than just a spoof. It is an original musical with more than a dozen musical numbers. And this delightful cast sings and dances, showing another side to their talented performances. Most of the numbers are sprightly and toe-tapping. And Mr. Gray has choreographed them quite well. Occasionally we even get a few notes from Wagner, himself. Toward the end of the second act we are treated to a delightful two-step which is as pretty a duet as you'll hear in any musical anywhere. Stephanie Lyng and Kevin Kraft as Brunhilde and Siegfried are just delightful young lovers but get to show their comic talents as well in a variety of other roles. David Gaspin is menacing as most of the evil-doers he portrays and has the strong deep voice to go with it, never losing the twinkle in his eye that tells us this is all a spoof. Keralee Clay is appealingly seductive as Guttrune, with a voice and personality to match. And Courtney Morris just oozes charisma as she talks/sings to the audience in her role as narrator and later as she dons numerous wigs and costumes for her seven other persona.

Barbara J. Anselmi conducts with vigor with one eye on the ensemble cast, the other on her talented musicians—Steven Mallory on drums and Danton Bankey on guitar and keyboards. Anselmi also plays keyboards with an expert feel for the music.

If you want an enjoyable evening of music and dance, if you want to laugh and tap your toes, go see *Das Barbecu* while you can.

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<http://www.nytheatre.com/nytheatre/barbecu.htm>

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