



Cabaret a sexy history lesson

By ASHLEY GOODFELLOW

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Life is a *Cabaret*, Brampton.

Or it will be, from Aug. 19 to 27 when the 23-time Tony award-winning musical caps off the Rose Theatre's Summer Theatre Series.

The sultry, sexy musical brings us back to 1929/1930 in Berlin, Germany, and takes us to the Kit Kat Club where a powerful love story unfolds against the backdrop of the rising of the Nazi party. Told through the eyes of a young American writer, Cliff Bradshaw, the story combines music, dance and history to give us one of the most celebrated pieces of musical theatre.

The Rose Theatre's presentation is directed by Danny Harvey and stars a roster of talented cast members— including local actor Scott Carmichael, and familiar faces Mark Llewellyn and Sweeney MacArthur (all who appeared in the Summer Theatre Season's opener, *The 39 Steps*) and Rose Theatre newcomer David Cotton. As well, female leads will be played by Erica Peck (*Scaramouche* in the Mirvish production of *We Will Rock You*) and Donna Garner (*Charlottetown Fest: Two Pianos, Four Hands*).

Choreographed by Melissa Jane Shaw, the dance numbers in *Cabaret* — complemented by the range of fantastic music— will keep audiences entertained.

"This is a full-scale musical," said Harvey. "There is a full-sized orchestra, several set changes, a full dance ensemble, several character leads. *Cabaret* is huge."

The play moves from dark and rebellious to upbeat and beautiful, and uses song and dance to give us a lesson in history.

"It's very real, very touching, very fun— but also very, very, very sexy, very sensual," describes Harvey, who says the message in the play is still very relevant in 2011. It touches on themes of racism and segregation, and "we're not as far past that as we like to pretend we are," he said.

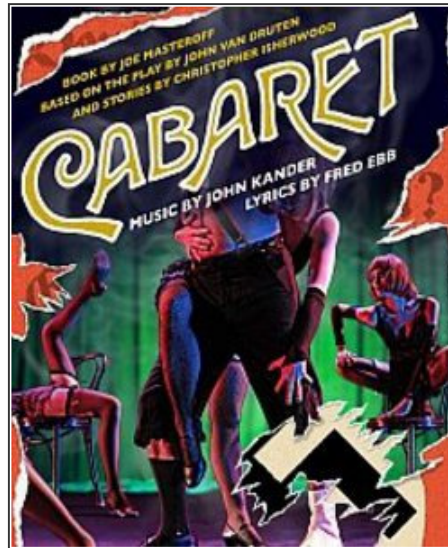
But at the same time, it's jazzy and sexy— and perhaps a little "risqué", he adds.

The music adds a rich element, with songs such as *Willkommen*, *Maybe This Time*, *Money, Money, Don't Tell Mama* and of course *Cabaret*.

"In my opinion, *Cabaret* is the perfect show," said Harvey. "It is the perfect mix of entertainment and a good story, and there are some real upbeat fun numbers and really dark, heavy drama as well."

"It's the kind of show that really makes you think about life," adds Cotton.

Cabaret runs Aug. 19 to 27 at the Rose Theatre in the main stage. For tickets and information, call 9025-874-2800 or visit www.rosetheatre.ca.



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