

Amsterdam News

Vol. 98 No. 43 October 18-October 24, 2007



Go quickly to experience 'Tenors'

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Special to the AmNews

You'll want "Mo', Mo', Mo'" after experiencing "Three Mo' Tenors" at the Little Shubert Theatre. The show, conceived, directed and choreographed by Marion J. Caffey, is nothing short of brilliant! You will have a ton of fun watching three Black tenors sing 10 different types of music in four languages.

This show is also highly

audience friendly. In the beginning, the tenors introduce each other and say where they hail from. They also explain to the audience the feast they are about to experience, as these men of color dazzle all with their delightful vocal instruments, often managing to make the audience laugh from their spoofing antics as well as welcome to join in with them on some songs.

Going to see "Three Mo'

Tenors" does something to you that you really need to experience for yourself. As these men make a joyful noise, you find yourself being amazed, amused and definitely, profoundly touched.

This is a show where every lighting cue, every dramatic expression, every song chosen—classical operatic, gospel, blues or soul—has been perfectly placed for the maximum

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'Tenors'

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satisfaction of all those who see it.

The three tenors I had the opportunity to experience were Phumzile Sojola, Ramone Diggs and Kenneth D. Alston, Jr. (Other performances will feature James N. Berger, Jr., Duane A. Moody and Victor Robertson.) This was an evening (which, by the way, was opening night, last Thursday) that was filled with show-stopping numbers. Many cheers and "bravos" rang out as these men performed both in groups and as solo artists. Showcasing these three Black tenors skills was easy because their talent seems so effortless and God-given.

Diggs hails from Texas, Alston from the Bronx and Sojola is from South Africa. What's interesting about Sojola is that he not only gets to demonstrate his phenomenal, focused instrument, but also gets to share his pride in his African heritage. He does this by leading the audience in "Dali Wum," an African song and he does powerful African dance moves, as he sports a dashiki. These tenors can break it down and deliver a song, no matter the race of its original performer. They also show the ability to perform very amusingly the music appreciated by today's youth.

I can't say enough times, how much you will enjoy this show.

They performed, much to everyone's delight and amusement, classical oper-

atic numbers from Verdi. They also gave powerful performances of Broadway show tunes. But not just any show tunes, these songs are the type that fill one with emotion and you can get a bit choked up. The songs included one of my personal favorites, "Bring Him Home," from "Les Miserables," and "Make Them Hear You" from "Ragtime." How appropriate the latter is to the mission of "Three Mo' Tenors," which is to make professionals in the industry realize the abundance of undiscovered Black talent out there waiting to be cast for an opera or in a Broadway musical and not just in stereotypical roles. These men should be considered for lead and romantic roles.

Another song, which can be connected with the mission of this show is "This Is the Moment" from "Jekyll and Hyde." When you hear these men sing, you will immediately realize that this vehicle is their moment to demonstrate to all what gifted men of color can do.

This production sets Marion Caffey, its creator, in the role of visionary. He was someone who saw for years that Black tenors were rarely being cast in operas or were given the role of the "bad" guy. Wanting to prove "we" can be much more than that (something Caffey mentioned to me in a previous interview that ran in the AmNews), he specifically created a show that would demonstrate "our" greatness in the area of vocals.

This very exciting show is done on a stage

with barely a set, wonderful lighting by Richard Winkler and vibrant live music by Keith Burton, conductor/pianist Fabiola Leon and Etienn Litel on keyboards, Carl Carter on bass guitar and Steve

Williams on drums.

The show is presently doing an open-ended run. But don't take chances, go see it now so you can go multiple times and see it with friends and family.

