

arts & entertainment news

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DETROIT

Historic Recording Studio in Detroit Bought by State

A historic Detroit music studio where stars such as Aretha Franklin and Miles Davis recorded has been bought by the state to preserve the building during a freeway project. Michigan's Transportation department says Friday that United Sound Systems will be relocated to an adjacent parking lot to allow more distance from proposed retaining walls along Interstate 94.

— The Associated Press

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

Audience Attends A Big Rock Party at The Sharon



THEATER REVIEW

By Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer

The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center is a pretty transformable place. It can host an orchestra one day, a dance show the next.

Friday night, the venue transformed into 1980s Hollywood for the 10th anniversary tour of "Rock of Ages," a Broadway musical tribute to classic '80s rock and roll put on by Fifth Estate Entertainment.

A huge metallic set with a second level filled the stage, and a steady flow of hits like "We're Not Gonna Take It," "The Final Countdown" and "Any Way You Want It" filled the ears of the audience for more than two hours.

But there was a story, as well. I found the plot highly enjoyable for two reasons.

The first was that the cast broke the fourth wall pretty much straight away.

Stopping right in the middle of the first musical number, the show's narrator, Lonny (played by John-Michael Breen), shouts, "Something's not right up here!"

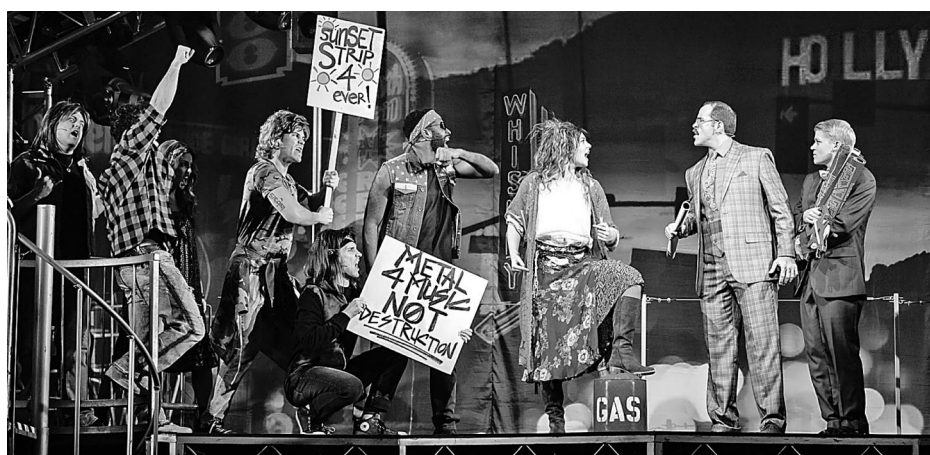
One of the members of the ensemble says, "I sang the wrong part, didn't I?"

"Well, yeah," Lonny says. "But we have to introduce a love story!"

Lonny stops the show to address the audience throughout the musical, and his commentary on the plot, the music and even the choreography is hilarious.

Which brings me to the second point — the show is totally a comedy, which I wasn't expecting.

The audience was laughing the whole way through, which fit nicely with the upbeat



Broadway's "Rock of Ages" opened Friday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Submitted photo

HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?

The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at their four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spanish Springs: 970 Del Mar Drive

Lake Sumter Landing: 1070 Canal Street

Brownwood: 2726 Brownwood Blvd.

Savannah Center: 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd.

'80s music.

The actual storyline of the show focuses on the relationship between Kansas transplant and wanna-be actress Sherrie (played by Katie LaMark) and wanna-be rocker, Drew (played by Anthony Nuccio), who works at the Hollywood club the Bourbon Room.

There's also the conflict between the rock 'n' rollers and a pair of German developers who try to clean up the town up and take the music away.

Please See NEXT PAGE

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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



LADY GAGA

Lady Gaga is sorry for her 2013 duet with R. Kelly in the wake of sexual misconduct allegations against the singer, and she intends to remove the song from streaming services.



BILLY JOEL

Singer Billy Joel will perform at Baltimore's Camden Yards this summer, the first concert to be held at the Orioles' ballpark since it opened in 1992. The singer, who turns 70 in May, will take the stage July 26.



MEGHAN MARKLE

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is taking an increasingly visible role in the British royal family as she becomes the patron of four organizations including the prestigious National Theatre.

SALT LAKE CITY

Police: Driver Crashes Trying 'Bird Box' Blindfold Challenge

Police say a Utah teenager crashed into another car when she covered her eyes as part of the so-called "Bird Box Challenge." Layton police Lt. Travis Lyman said Friday that the 17-year-old drifted into oncoming traffic and hit another car after she pulled a hat over her eyes to emulate "Bird Box," a Sandra Bullock movie on Netflix where characters must be constantly blindfolded to avoid visions that urge them to die.

— The Associated Press

Continued from Previous Page

But I would say that the show is mostly about the music.

From start to finish, "Rock of Ages" is a wild, head-banging, electrifying ride full of big hair, denim and dancing.

"It's fun," said Wanda Bahde, of Del Webb. "Great music, lots of energy."

She and her husband, Ray, joked that the music was after their era, but they were thoroughly enjoying it anyway.

"I like Katie LaMark, the girl who plays Sherrie," Wanda said. "The way she can move, man!"

For Malena Delaluz, of the Village of Woodbury, the musical was exactly her era.

"I think I'm losing my voice from singing and screaming at the same time," Delaluz said. "I grew up with all of this stuff. It's like high school, and even though they're being funny, that's exactly how everybody was! It's really cool."

She's even originally from Los Angeles, and said that the show was true to 1980s Hollywood.

I would highly recommend seeing this show. I mean, it's more than two hours of straight music and laughter. What's better than that?

Luckily, if you missed out Friday night, you still have two more chances to see "Rock of Ages" at The Sharon.

The show will be performed again at 2 and 7:30 p.m. today.

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.



Submitted photo

Broadway's "Rock of Ages" opened Friday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. There will be two more performances today at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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