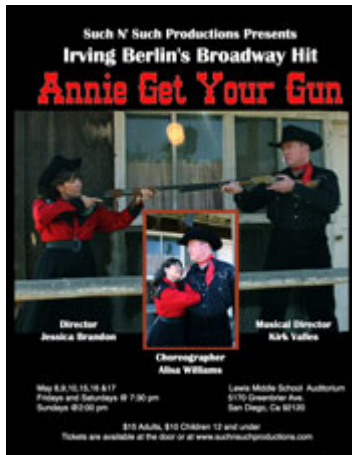


Annie Get Your Gun – a perennial hit



I don't know of another show that has so many hits in it as Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun*. Opening with "There's No Business Like Show Business," then continuing with "They Say It's Wonderful," and "The Girl that I Marry." Nor have any shows had such lasting appeal from its Broadway opening in 1946 with a run of 1,147 shows to the revivals in 1966 and 1999. It was in 1999 that Berlin's "I'll Share it All With You" and "Who Do You Love I Hope" was added.

One of the reasons for its continued success is the love story between the rough-hewn backwoods Annie Oakley and the sophisticated Frank Butler. Perhaps the lasting power is because it is based on their lives with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, a show that brought the wild west to Cincinnati and Minneapolis and, of course, to New York City. The musical has also been made into a movie and a television production.

Such N' Such Productions, which will be bringing us *Annie* this fall, did their first production in 2006. They specialize in big shows with big casts that span the age spectrum from young children to gramps. Their last two shows were *The Music Man* and *Oliver!* The current production numbers 50 with cast and ensemble.

Jessica Brandon took on the task of directing with Musical Director **Kirk Valles** and Choreographer **Alisa Williams**. The team has provided a treat for their audiences. The ensemble singing and dance numbers were exciting. Costumer **Patrick Lathrop** and staff deserve accolades their work. **Cameron Williams** and **Adriana Zuniga** provided an array of hard-to-find props.

The director did an excellent job of casting a talented cast. Most of the principals we've seen in productions throughout the San Diego theatre scene. **Don Evans** (Frank Butler, Annie's heartthrob) has been seen at Moonlight, Lyric Opera, Starlight, and many other venues. **Lisa Goodman** (Annie and the producer) has been seen throughout San Diego and North County in musical productions.

Dawn Marie Williams (Dolly Tate) brought a host of family and friends with Cameron, Michael, Lorelei, and Adriana joining the cast. **John Steinmetz** is a very good Buffalo Bill Cody. I wish I had the space to mention everybody in cast. The energy on the stage was electric.

Annie Get Your Gun is a big, fun show. The audience was involved with every number. They cheered the budding romance. They were almost singing along with the cast. One doesn't see this much enthusiasm from an audience very often. Incidentally, what is Such N' Such's thing about Annies this season?

The production runs thru Sunday, May 17, 2009 at Lewis Middle School, 5170 Greenbrier Ave (a couple of blocks off of Waring Road), San Diego. For information and tickets 619 741-7185 or suchnsuch@cox.net. This is a kid-friendly show; bring the whole family.

Note: There is a saying in show business that the show must go on. It was never more applicable than Sunday's performance of *Annie Get Your Gun* when the lighting board quit. Trying to do a show with no lights can be a bit of a problem. After all, the audience did come to "see" a show. This show is almost all singing and all dancing, not dancing in the dark. They turned on the stage work lights and the auditorium lights. Finally, they stopped the show and in less than 15 minutes had solved the problem. They began, again, from the top. Several in the cast, at appropriate points did remind that we may have seen this bit before. The audience loved it. The cast and crew of Such N' Such Productions deserves plaudits for a successful production pulled from the brink of disaster.