

The 'Stuff' was Here!

Written by Lauren Giarrocco

Friday, 21 May 2010 00:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 12 October 2011 21:25

The Drexel Players Put on Reefer Madness, a 'Hit' Musical

What do you get when you combine a squeaky-clean society, singing, dancing and marijuana? Reefer Madness, of course! The Drexel Players performed five shows over last weekend and it turned out to be a great success!



Reefer Madness is a musical satire that was inspired by the 1936 propaganda film of the same name. This hysterical take on the film parodies the U.S. government's serious warning that action must be taken before the country succumbs to the dangers of the demon weed. The audience is taken on a journey with all-American teen Jimmy Harper who is introduced to and becomes addicted to "the stuff," later realizing the error in his ways and swears to educate America's youth about the dangers of marijuana.

With show-stopping musical numbers and a bizarre yet hysterical story line, the audience was never bored.

Thursday May 13 at 7:55 p.m., Mandell Theater was a packed house for Reefer's opening night.

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The audience consisted of a seemingly diverse group of people. Friends and family of the actors and crew members, professors, general public, those for the legalization of marijuana and those against legalization – all people in attendance were there to support live theater and cast and crew who worked exceptionally hard for the past eight months.

The hard work was well worth it because the show turned out to be a smash hit!



The play opened with a dark stage and a spotlight on a podium stage left. The lecturer, played by Eric Mathew Colton, walked with authority and purpose to a lit podium. His opening scene began with an exaggerated preparation of cleaning his glasses and perfecting his suit before he finally cleared his throat and began his tirade about the new drug menace, "marihuana", which threatens the American way of life in particular the youth of America.

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His warnings are reinforced by the Placard Girl, played by Laura Calderone, who held up large signs that clearly stated the scenes' moral lessons throughout the production.

From his podium, the Lecturer warns the audience that action must be taken immediately before America's youth succumbs to the "Reefer Madness." He illustrates his point by introducing the audience to all-American teens Jimmy Harper (Steve Pribis) and Mary Lane (Emily Kleimo), a wholesome, "Leave it to Beaver" teenage couple who are as innocent and pure as the driven snow.

The innocence depicted by Jimmy, Mary and the ensemble is threatened when the Lecturer shows us the sordid side of life at the local Reefer Den. It is here that we meet Jack (Andrew Leib) and Mae (Laurel Hostak). Jack is a drug dealer looking for young paying victims, and Mae is the Reefer Den Hostess who is abused by her drug-pusher boyfriend Jack, though she can't leave him because he provides her with her drug fix – "the stuff." Jack ventures to the local jukebox diner, the Five and Dime, for new customers and this is where our young Jimmy is consumed by his charms.

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