



Photo courtesy of R.R. Best

Joseph (Jeff Talbott) tries to fend off Mrs. Potiphar (Melissa Yvonne Bollinger) who is ignoring her husband (Richard Ruth) in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

'Dreamcoat' tells tale well

SULLIVAN — It's an old tale with a new twist.

And a country twang, Parisian street music and tribute to the King of Rock'n'roll.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" tells an updated version of the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors.

Music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber — the theater hit machine with "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Cats" and "Phantom of the Opera" to his credit — is an absolute treat.

The Little Theatre-On the Square's five-member band, led by David Fehr, has plenty of room to roam since all of "Joseph" is sung. There's not one spoken word.

Rather than stick to one style, Lloyd Webber's music runs the gamut — from the down-home sound of "One More Angel" to the island feel of "Benjamin Calypso" and the 1960s beach movie-inspired "Go, Go Go Joseph." Fehr and Co. sounded terrific throughout Wednesday afternoon's opening performance.

Almost as busy as the musicians are Heidi Dittmar and Jeff Talbott, both of Chicago. They're on stage nearly the entire show. Dittmar plays the Narrator and does an admirable job "setting the stage" for each scene.

Talbott plays Joseph, the favored brother whose 11 siblings sell him into slavery in Egypt. They've tired of hearing his dreams, a talent Joseph later uses to his benefit.

It's hard to imagine a performer better suited for the role. Talbott's long blond locks and boyish good looks enable him to be both innocent and mischievous as the ill-fated Joseph. He also possesses a strong singing voice heard during "Close Every Door."

What would Egypt be without a Pharaoh, the king of the land?

Steve Metsch

Review



Playing the Pharaoh is Charles Bell, who sheds his costume in favor of a white jumpsuit during a hilarious impersonation of Elvis Presley.

The last scene is worth the wait. A dazzling dreamcoat borrowed from the Utah Musical Theatre is proudly worn by Joseph. The coat took three women working 12 hours a day for three days to make.

One final note: If you're planning on a long night at the theater, forget it.

Not counting a 10-minute intermission, "Joseph" clocks at one hour. It's a short but sweet musical which left me wanting to hear more.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Cast

Narrator.....	Heidi Dittmar
Jacob.....	Shawn Allen Knuckles
Joseph.....	Jeff Talbott
Reuben.....	Richard Ruth
Simeon, Pharaoh...	Charles Bell
Levi.....	Michael Todd Knese
Naphtali.....	Roger Seyer
Isaacher.....	Monty Hendricks
Asher.....	Paul Gritton
Dan, Baker...	Marc F. Francoeur
Zebulun.....	Jeff Coopwood
Gad.....	Josh Rhodes
Benjamin.....	Curtis Moran
Judah, Butler..	Daniel Workman
Ishmaelites.....	
.....	Heath Fleener, Terri Ingram
Potiphar.....	Richard Ruth
Mrs. Potiphar.....	
.....	Melissa Yvonne Bollinger
Jacob's Wives, Egyptian Women.....	
.....	Melissa Yvonne Bollinger, Anna-Lee Boyd, Tinya J. Harl, Carolyn Kent

Technical crew

Director.....	Gary R. Bird
Artistic Director	M. Seth Reines
Costumes.....	Susan Branch
Lights.....	Patty Takahashi
Scenic Design.	Robert C. Martin
Choreographer.....	Millie Garvey
Musical Director.....	David Fehr

Presented at The Little Theatre-On the Square. Remaining performances through July 10 are at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 2 and 8 p.m. Wednesday; 4 and 8 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$12.75 to \$16.75. Call 728-7375.



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