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Mojo Rolls

by Sara-jane Milne

West Memphis Mojo takes place in a small Southern barber shop and record store in Arkansas. The year is 1955, a year after the U.S. Supreme Court **banned segregation**. Around this time a young white boy named Elvis Presley was beginning to shine, after recording "That's All Right, Mama" by blues King Arthur Crudup.

This seemed to open up the door for other black musicians like Crudup, fame and its rewards from exposure of their songs. What these Sun recording sessions also opened up was the exploitation of black musicians: in the late sixties Presley gave Crudup a new Cadillac as show of gratitude, but Crudup the musician was soon forgotten and spent the duration of his life a sharecrop-

per in Mississippi.

West Memphis Mojo is a drama about dreams, reality, naïveté and experience. Teddy the barber (Jeff Coopwood) and his shoe-shine boy Elroi (Richard Yearwood) write songs that they hope to have recorded with the help of singer/guitarist Frank (Tyrone Benskin). Frank however has other plans for their songs, plans which do not include Elroi and Teddy.

Written by Martin Jones, **West Memphis Mojo** tells a very interesting and compassionate story about the frustration of unrealized dreams. The cast members of **Mojo** gave a dynamic performance, each possession talent in both acting and music.

West Memphis Mojo continues at the Theatre Passe Muraille until April 2nd.