



'Bark' brings out animal instincts through song

By Bob Evans

Leawood Stage Company



Leawood Stage planned to offer "Bark: The Musical" in spite of adverse weather and the planned outdoor performances moved indoors, but, as the saying goes, "The show must go on" which it did.

Instead of canine companions sitting outside with their masters, they wagged their tails inside as the short musical tribute to man's best friend unfolded before them. Of course, no actual dogs appear in the live action musical, but costumed performers take on the characteristics of several dog types.

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The short musical, running about 75 minutes, presents a fun, comical look at several dog breeds and their personalities, but mostly “Bark! The Musical” showcases some local talent guaranteed to impact upcoming local productions.

The cast is: Camille Breckenridge as Boo, Meagan McCarty as Chanel, Tracy Pratt as Golde, Paul Anderson as King, Drew Jones as Sam, Alex Goering as Rocks. The creative team was Director, Annette Cook; Music Director, Leayn Losh; Choreographer, Rachel Reese.

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The show is light and fluffy throughout and geared for dog lovers and a younger audience. The show is short and fast moving. As for the cast, the entire cast did a wonderful job of portraying dogs. Two of the cast stand out, for their strong singing voices. Meagan McCarty delivers some solid opera skills as the French Poodle Alex Goering has the strongest of the male vocalists. Watch for them in subsequent shows.

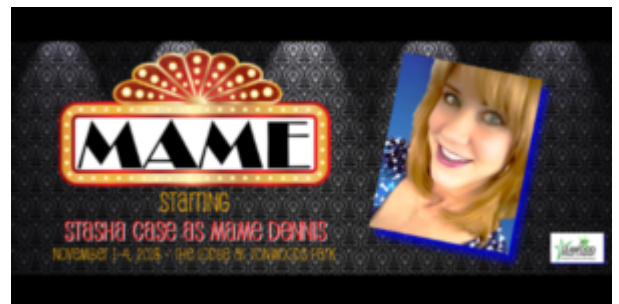
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According to Leawood Stage, “Bark! The Musical” follows six canine characters for a day at Doggie Daycare. From the little puppy who yearns to bark like a real dog, to the opera singing poodle and the street mutt who raps – this musical has huge heart. Presented from a dog’s point of view, the musical depicts the joy in man’s best friend.

The three performance dates were Sept. 7-9 inside The Lodge at Ironwoods because dismal weather and almost non-stop drizzle and cloudbursts forced the production inside.

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A spokesman for Leawood Stage Company said it was proud to present the Kansas City premiere of this musical. The three performances and the companion Bark in the Park event will benefit Leawood Dog Park and other local not-for-profit pet agencies.

Next up for Leawood Stage Company, “Mame” comes to the Lodge Oct. 31. Make plans now to secure tickets.

Tags: “Bark! The Musical”, Leawood Stage Company, Kansas City Theater, Kansas City Performing Arts, Kansas City Arts & Entertainment