

# SCT revue offers plenty of fun

By KRIS SISSOM  
Starkville Daily News

Forget Broadway. If it is emotion, excitement, dynamic voices and quality entertainment you want just head downtown to the Playhouse on Main for the Starkville Community Theatre's summer musical revue, "Backstage."

Directed by Pattye Archer and Lyle Tate, and featuring eight talented performers, "Backstage" offers a fun, lighthearted glance at some of what could go on backstage in the hours leading up to curtain time of a big show.

"The idea behind the show is that this is the last night of a long-running production. The cast of the show is gathered backstage preparing for their final performance and as they back up the props and items that have collected over the years, memories come pouring back," said Tate. "The show includes a great mix of music — everything from Broadway tunes to pop to country to standard. There is a little something for every music lover."

The show is part of the Starkville Community Theatre's summer fundraiser. Performances are tonight and Saturday night at 7:30 p.m., and both evening shows will be followed by a dessert reception. A \$25 donation is expected at the door and reservations are required.

SCT has added a third performance of "Backstage," a matinee at 2 p.m. Saturday. Tickets for the matinee are \$10 and \$7 for students and seniors. Reservations are strongly suggested for the show since about a dozen tickets are left for Friday's performance and a couple for Saturday.

"We are very pleased with the response we have received for the



Brian Loder/ST

Above, Allana Austin, M.J. Etua, Madeline Golden and Patsy Douglas vamp it up with a show-stopping rendition of "I'm a Woman, W-O-M-A-N" during the Starkville Community Theatre's summer musical revue and fundraiser, "Backstage." Left, Austin sings "I've Got a Crush on You" during the show's second act.



summer fundraiser," said Archer. "We have about 20 seats left for Friday night, but only a couple for

Saturday night. The evening shows are really part of a great event starting with social hour at

6:30 p.m., the show at 7:30 p.m. and a dessert reception to cap it

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off."

"The matinee will just be the show, without all the extras," she added.

The show, which features SCT veterans and newcomers including Allana Austin, Alan Brown, Patsy Douglas, M.J. Etua, Brian Hawkins, Madeline Golden, Paul Ruff and Tate, opens with a well-known show tune followed by the classics, "Steppin'" and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore."

The excitement picks up early in the first act when Hawkins, Ruff and Tate come together for "Fugue for Tinhorns" from "Guys and Dolls." Golden, Etua,

Douglas and Brown each handle their respective solo numbers with emotions ranging from tender to sweet to sexy to all out fun. A medley of songs from the 1940s ends the first act on a high note.

The cast joins together again to open the second act with the ever-popular "Summer Nights" from the movie and musical, Grease. Golden shines on "I Just Want to be a Star" — a number that is actually a reprise for the SCT veteran, who first sang the song in "Nonsense." The guys have fun with the 1980s Eric Carmen tune, "Make Me Lose Control" opening the door for the ladies to let loose on two great numbers, "Adelaide's Lament" from "Guys and Dolls" and "I'm A Woman, W-O-M-A-N" — a definite showstopper.

The show, which runs under two

hours, features a good mix of solos, duets and group numbers. Tate and Austin take the lead on "Summer Nights" and come back together late in the second act for "I've Got a Crush on You." Ruff and Etua harmonize on "When I fall in Love," and Hawkins and Douglas put it all on the line in "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better."

"Backstage" lives up to the quality entertainment theatergoers have come to expect from the Starkville Community Theatre and should not be missed. The show offers an opportunity to have a highly entertaining evening while supporting a community organization.

For more information on the show, or to make reservations, please call 323-6855.