

SAN MARCOS RECORD AND WIMBERLEY VIEW

EXCERPTS: Review of “Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean

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The first thing you’ll notice when you sit down for the Wimberley Player’s latest show “Come Back to the Five and Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean” is the set. But it’s truly amazing to watch how the actors use it throughout the play.

“Five and Dime” is a somewhat hard to follow, but touching tale of a group of women who were once a part of a James Dean fan club coming back for a reunion 20 years after the death of their idol.

As a critic, I felt cheated after seeing the show, as my main beef with the show is not the fault of the director (David Bisett, a Wimberley Player on and off for more than 30 years), actors or any of the techs or stage hands. It’s the fault of the author, who did not provide the audience enough exposition.

For those who don’t know who James Dean is, or what life was like in a small Texas town a few decades ago, the show can be hard to follow.

. So, here are a few things you should know before the lights go down at the start of the show:

- The play is separated into its present day and flashbacks taking place at various times.
- Three characters have younger versions of themselves: Mona (played by Celeste Coburn and Leigh Shelton), Sissy (played by Kortnee McDowell and Laura Jean Tomerlin) and Joe (but I can’t tell you anymore without a spoiler alert).

Now, onto the good stuff. Aside from script downfalls, the cast and crew have glided over them perfectly. The performances for this show are some of the most honest I’ve seen on the Player’s stage. Brandi Rose Atchley (Joanne), Leigh Shelton (Young Mona) and Jarren Tomlinson (Joe) stand out above the rest for not only understanding their character’s emotions and flaws, but playing them honestly.

Though I have to call out Kortnee McDowell and Laura Tomerlin separately

from the rest because I think of all the characters with doubles, Sissy was played with the most consistency. McDowell and Tomerlin, one can only imagine, spent a lot of time discussing Sissy's characteristics and quirks. It was awesome to see consistency between the two characters. Above all, it is clear that this cast and Bisett have worked hard to develop and truly understand some complicated and screwed up characters.

“Five and Dime” is as hysterical as it is heart-breaking, and a night of dang-good theater.

The Wimberley Playerhouse is located at 450 Old Kyle Rd. “Five and Dime” is showing Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 and Sunday afternoons at 2:30 through May 4.