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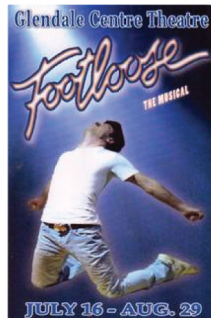
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On Stage: FOOTLOOSE

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 Jackie Houchin



“Footloose,” the newest show to premier at the Glendale Centre Theatre is an energetic, crowd-pleasing musical that combines the best of “Grease,” “American Graffiti,” “Dirty Dancing” and even “42nd Street.” It’s about dancing, teens testing the rules, young love, and doing the right thing. And did I mention dancing?

From the moment the lights go up and the first bar of music sounds, GCT’s theater-in-the-round stage bursts with exuberance as a score of youthful dancers fly down the aisles and out of the tunnels, dancing and singing, grinning, and having a heck of a good time. The audience, caught up in the excitement, responds with head nods and tapping feet.

From its energetic opening the show quickly segues to the heart of the story. The small farming town of Bomont is under lockdown by the town counsel and the local minister. Dancing, rock ‘n roll music, movies, drinking and smoking are all prohibited. Church attendance is required even for the local hoodlums.

Reverend Moore, played by veteran singer/actor George Champion (Gerard in GCT’s Phantom), is “the law” behind these restrictions, but an inner struggle is evident from his words in the nicely staged church number, “On Any Sunday.” As the choir and the congregation join him, the song seems to echo his thoughts, “Am I doing the right thing?”