

More play photos and stories, see page 19.

Youth shine in musical



Left, Duke Gaston as Professor Harold Hill and Tristen Horuichi as Marcellus Washburn. Right, Wilmer Joel as Charlie Cowell and passengers Germaine Muller and Jack Niedenthal. Below, Carnie Reimers (standing) as Marian Paroo and Grace Zedkeia as Amaryllis.

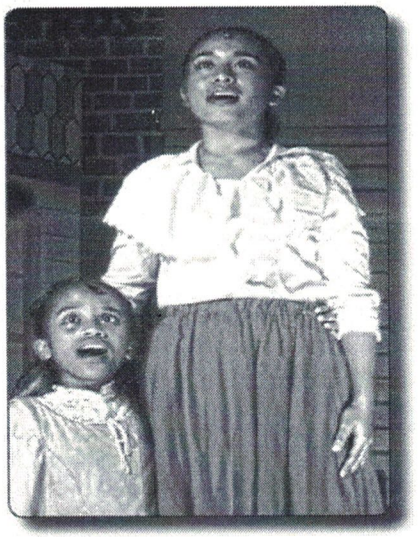
Photos: Hilary Hosia.

Music Man: A fast and spirited show

KELLY LORENNIJ

Seasoned theatergoers counted down the last few seconds to lights out during Tuesday night's show at the International Conference Center where family, friends and fans of The Music Man occupied more than half the room. The musical, deemed a "masterpiece" in theatre, is a romantic comedy with book, music and lyrics by Meredith Willson.

This year's Youth Bridge Global/Public School System/MIHS production brought to Majuro Dartmouth Professor Emeritus Andrew Garrod and Dartmouth juniors Summer Cody and Tyler Malbareaux as music director and assistant producer, respectively. The local team includes long-time producer Bonny Taggart and assistant director Tommy Kabua.



The play launches straight into a musical number that parallels the rhythm of a train, our first scene, and as the wheels warm up so does the group of fast-talking salesmen who are discussing the shenanigans of the infamous con man Harold Hill. Duke Gaston, who alternates the lead role with the versatile Jobod Silk, makes a strong and charming "Professor" Hill who thaws the icy walls of Carnie Reimers' sweet but sharp librarian Marian Paroo.

Hill stirs up trouble in River City by conning the townspeople to sign their kids up for the new "band" and convinces them to put down a hefty amount for band instruments and uniforms. Marian, who is able to prove him a liar, has a change of heart upon seeing lisping little brother Winthrop, played by Christian Reimers, overcome his shyness and join the band.

The musical alternates between the fast-paced rhythm of Hill and Marian's gentler tones. It is spiced up with the interlacing harmonies of Frank Chase Domnick, Ronald Jorthan, Ryan Jekkar, and Tony Kabua.

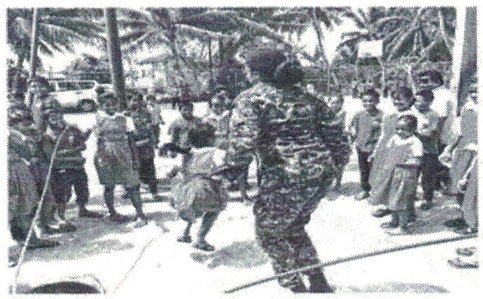
Others who carried out their roles very convincingly include Aliciya Ackley as the motherly Mrs. Paroo, Grace Zedkaia as the endearing Amaryllis, and Yolanie Jurelang whose deft movements and comical expressions filled the room with boisterous laughter.

Despite microphone issues and twisted tongues the ensemble gave a wonderfully mature and spirited performance sprinkled with a bit of improvising that knocked the zorries off the house, and that was made all the familiar with the mix of modern Marshallese slang and original music. By the time the band closed with a resounding performance it was evident that the audience was as caught in a con-turned-wrong as Hill who finds new life and love in a quaint little town.

The Music Man shows every night through Saturday. Tickets can be bought starting from 7 pm and show time starts at 8 pm on the dot.

CANVASBACK WELLNESS CENTER + CANVASBACK MISSIONS, INC.

Elementary School Health Program



In 2017, the Canvasback Wellness Center teamed up with PREL, MOE and MOHHS along with other partners to do a elementary school health program. Now after nearly two years of working with students in all public elementary schools on island, they are seeing great results. Ellice Jibas is one of the key supporters of this program and Principal at Long Island Elementary School. He has banned all unhealthy food from the school and worked with the local stores around the school to stop serving unhealthy food. Here is his testimony

I am very thankful for this health program. Since it has started we have seen some amazing changing in the students and parents. This program has helped us realize what is healthy and what is unhealthy food. Now, we have a school garden that the students can come and work in and learn to grow their own food. We have Wellness Staff coming out to do cooking schools with the older students to learn how to harvest and use the garden food. Before there was no policy in place on unhealthy food and we had trash pile up each day with chips, ramen and other junk foods. Now it is very rare for us to see trash because the kids don't bring that stuff to school anymore. Now they eat eggs, milk, water, cereal and other healthy items. The changes we've seen in the student behavior has been awesome as well. Before the program the students had trouble controlling their attitudes and their behavior was a little wild, now they come to school on time and behave well in class.

Stores next to the school are also supportive of the health program. They don't serve any more soda or chips and they stopped selling iced plum. Now they sell a lot of boiled eggs for the kids. Parents also are making sacrifice for their kids health and sending them to school with healthy foods for lunch and snacks.

We want everyone to realize the difference between healthy and unhealthy foods. This is our hope.

WORLD DIABETES FOUNDATION