



Are you a TOTT winner?

Check out our Winners Store for certificates, plaques and window clings.

[Click here](#)

(<https://newskeepsake.com/pages/city-pulse>)

[Advertise \(/advertise/\)](/advertise/)

[City Pulse Store \(https://lansingcitypulse.org/shop/\)](https://lansingcitypulse.org/shop/)

[Classifieds \(/classifieds/\)](/classifieds/)

[Contact us](#)

[\(/contact-us/\)](/contact-us/)

[Where to find a paper \(/racks-and-dealers/\)](/racks-and-dealers/)

[Advertise \(/advertise/\)](/advertise/)

[Donate \(https://lansingcitypulse.ac-page.com/donate\)](https://lansingcitypulse.ac-page.com/donate)

CityPULSE (/)

Main menu



[Log in \(/login.html\)](/login.html)

Still relevant after all these years: '9 To 5, The Musical' at Fairchild



(https://alpha.creativecirclecdn.com/citypulse/original/20250219-011524-964-shutterstock_1329078125.jpg)

William Barton/Shutterstock "9 to 5: The Musical" during its run in London's West End in 2019.

WILLIAM BARTON

Posted Wednesday, February 19, 2025 7:03 am

By **DANA DEMINK**

Dolly Parton was front and center at Michigan State University's Fairchild Theatre for the Broadway revival of "9 to 5, The Musical."

From her pre-recorded introduction to the Dollymania tee-shirts and cowboy hats donned by audience members, one would think that this production was a homage to Dolly. And while she certainly penned the music and lyrics of this award-winning workplace revenge comedy based on the seminal 1980s movie, Dolly is really an aside here. The message of "9 to 5, The Musical" cannot be ignored: If women work together, there's nothing that they can't do, even in a man's world.

Trapped in a toxic office culture ruled by a "sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot," Violet, Judy, and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy of taking control of their company and deposing the capricious, patriarchal man-child in charge of it all. Whether they are overlooked for promotion, or sexually harassed, the women of Consolidated Corporation are tired of being belittled. Through a little bit of creativity and an old-school garage door opener, the three have a chance to run the company. In short order they introduce job flexibility, free day care, training opportunities and equal pay.

Hail to the three leads: Brook Cousins, as the scrappy Violet, Reese Martin, as the curvaceous cowgirl Doralee and Olivia Bath as Judy, the recently divorced naïve new secretary. It's always wonderful to see young performers showcase their triple-threat talents, and these three delivered sublime performances.

However, a few break-out performances from the supporting cast ran off with the show. Jordan Ivazaj as the tumescent Roz, electrified the stage during her performance of "Heart to Hart." Kudos to Matt Antalok as the devoted Joe, the object of reluctant Judy's affection. Antalok carried the duet, "Let Love Grow," and dazzled us with his captivating voice and spry dance moves.

While the incongruous digital backdrop with its repeating geometric patterns and alternating floral wallpaper served no purpose to the plot but to distract from the action on the stage, one stage element, the neon "Consolidated Corporation," sign grabbed my attention. At one point, the sign blinked and sputtered and only the words "so dated" glowed in the darkness. It called attention to what had crossed my mind at the start of the play: Why are we still having a conversation about women's rights? Economic inequality and low respect for women in the workplace is a thing of the past – over and done with in the 1970s and 1980's, right? Not so fast. Many women, especially those in low-wage jobs, can't afford child care and have never enjoyed a flexible work environment. Aren't we living in a nation that embraces patriarchal manifestos that attack protections against sexual discrimination, seeks to eliminate the civil rights offices of every federal agency, weaken Title IX protections, and rolls back decades of labor laws?

If only three women and a garage door opener would fix the problem.

Regardless, "9 to 5, The Musical" was a delightful evening of entertainment that should not be missed.

Comments

NO COMMENTS ON THIS ITEM PLEASE LOG IN TO COMMENT BY CLICKING HERE (/LOGIN.HTML?REFERER=%2FSTORIES%2FSTILL-RELEVANT-AFTER-ALL-THESE-YEARS-9-TO-5-THE-MUSICAL-AT-FAIRCHILD%2C125605)

Support City Pulse - Donate Today! (<https://lansingcitypulse.ac-page.com/donate>)