

# APTOS TIMES

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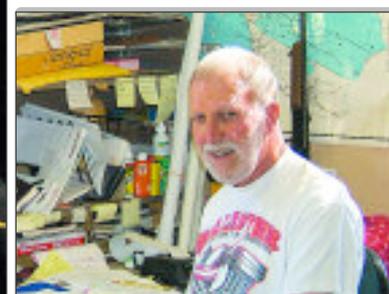
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Roddy Kennedy as the emcee with the Kit Kat Girls.

## Lowell Webb's Dilemma



Lowell Webb

Entanglement with county costing big bucks

By Noel Smith

Lowell Webb owns Webb's Farm Supplies at 5381 Old San Jose Road. The business has been operating since the 1940's and the family has owned the property since the 1880's. Webb still has 40-acres on which he has his farm equipment business and also farms vegetables that he sells at the Aptos Farmer's Market.

The problems that Webb has had with Santa Cruz County have resulted in a judgment against him in the amount of \$29,866.81 to be paid by the end of this July. The penalty levied by Judge Almqvist amounts to \$6,250 plus court costs of \$52.50.

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## CABARET AT CROCKER THEATER

A summer of Broadway entertainment for all tastes is coming to an end as Cabrillo Stage Presents finishes their expanded 29th season of live, professional musical theatre. This year's summer repertory presents Cabaret in the Cabrillo Crocker Theater, which will conclude on August 15.

"This is an amazing time of growth and artistic vision for the

company," says Producing Artistic Director Jon Nordgren. "With the new Performing Arts facilities at Cabrillo College and the success of our last two seasons, this is the perfect opportunity for Cabrillo Stage to expand and, 'make our garden grow.'"

**Cabaret**

July 23 ~ Aug. 15

Cabrillo Stage's third summer offering for 2010 is Cabaret,

opening July 23rd. Winner of 12 Tony Awards for both the original and revival productions, Cabaret is a brilliantly conceived musical masterpiece.

Set in the early days of the Nazi regime, the Kit Kat Klub is a decadent refuge from the political turmoil outside. The cabaret's gleefully lecherous emcee offers social commentary between numbers by English expatriate and

party girl Sally Bowles, who believes that life is a cabaret.

Director Trevor Little comments, "Cabaret is that rare piece of musical theatre that dares to be important. It dares to be smart and funny and shows us the beauty in one of the ugliest moments in human history. That it does this with hot jazz and sexy dancing girls is part of the miracle of this show."

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# Cabaret, a musical trip into dissolution

By Noel Smith

The musical, Cabaret, documents powerfully the dissolution of a country both morally and politically as it winds toward the tragedy of WWII. The Kit Kat Klub and its Emcee are a microcosm of a society breaking its bonds of both propriety and tolerance just prior to the Nazi party's taking over of Germany in 1933.

The story is not for the faint of heart as the cast graphically displays the rejection of traditional values and rise of fanaticism and prejudice in a civilized society ending eventually in its own demise. The musical's complete score as performed on Broadway in this production is compelling and mesmerizing.

Roddy Kennedy as the Emcee is marvelous in his depiction of the ringmaster in this world of depravity and dissipation. Andrew Ceglio plays the part of the failed-to-launch author Clifford Bradshaw who arrives in Berlin and is immediately drawn

into the world revolving around the Kit Kat Klub and its denizens. Briana Michaud as Sally Bowles is the quintessential amoral woman living only for the moment and enamored of what she thinks is fame.

Kathryn Adkins as Fraulein Schneider is the older woman seeing a glimmer of a new life snatched away by the anti-Semitism demanded by the newly-powerful Nazi Party. Doug Baird is the ever-optimistic Herr Schultz who refuses to see, as did many Jews of the time, the real dangers



Briana Michaud as Sally Bowles and Roddy Kennedy as the Emcee.

approaching as the influence of the Nazi's begins to overwhelm all the old societal values.

Ariel Buck, having just finished a run as one of the four-member cast of, I Love You, You're Perfect ... plays Fraulein Kost, a typical "working" girl renting a room in Fraulein Schneider's boarding house as do Clifford Bradshaw and Herr Schultz.

Josiah Frampton plays Ernst Ludwig an earnest young smuggler just trying to make a living and member of the Nazi Party.

The ensemble is made up of extremely talented men and women who just knock your socks off with their marvelous singing, dancing and acting as the inhabitants of the Kit Kat Klub.

It all comes together, the music, the dancing, the acting, the singing and the sets to present a fascinating snapshot of a turning point in history when convention is cast aside in favor of personal pleasure, pride... and prejudice.

Each and every cast member gives a strong performance with both their acting and their singing. Director Trevor Little, Musical Direction by Michael McGushin, conducted by Artistic Director Jon Nordgren, and the scenic design by Jim Culley show that this is indeed a production of a professional caliber of which few communities can boast.

Thank you again Cabrillo Stage. ■

"Cabaret" from pg 1

"Cabaret has been one of the most requested shows by our audience members," adds Producing Artistic Director Jon Nordgren

Cabaret is a musical with the book by Joe Masteroff, music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb. The 1966 Broadway production became a hit and then a 1972 film as well winning eight Academy Awards and revived in numerous productions.

Cabaret is based on John Van Druen's 1951 play I Am a Camera, which in turn was adapted from the novel Goodbye to Berlin by Christopher Isherwood. Set in 1931 Berlin as the Nazis are rising to power, it focuses on nightlife at the seedy Kit Kat Klub and revolves around the 19-year-old English cabaret performer Sally Bowles and her relationship with young American writer Cliff Bradshaw.

A sub-plot involves the doomed romance between German boarding house owner Fraulein Schneider and her elderly suitor Herr Schultz, a Jewish fruit vendor. Overseeing the action is the Master of Ceremonies at the Kit Kat Klub which serves as a constant metaphor for the tenuous and threatening state of late Weimar Germany throughout the show.

Cabaret is a form of entertainment featuring comedy, song, dance, and theatre, distinguished mainly by the performance venue—a restaurant or nightclub with a stage for performances and the audience sitting at tables (often dining or drinking) watching the performance being introduced by a master of ceremonies, or Emcee (MC).

The first cabaret was opened in 1881 in Montmartre, Paris: Rodolphe Salis' "cabaret artistique." Shortly after it was founded, it was

renamed Le Chat Noir (The Black Cat). It became a locale in which up-and-coming cabaret artists could try their new acts.

## Original Broadway Production

In the original production, staging for Cabaret I was unusual for the time. As the audience filled the theater, the curtain was already up, revealing a stage containing nothing but a large mirror reflecting the auditorium. There was no overture; instead, a drum roll and cymbal crash led into the opening number. The juxtaposition of dialogue scenes with songs used as exposition and separate cabaret numbers providing social commentary was a novel concept.

The original Broadway production, directed by Harold Prince and choreographed by Ron Field, opened on November 20, 1966 at the Broadhurst Theatre, eventually transferring first to the Imperial and then the Broadway before finally completing its 1,165-performance run. The opening night cast included Jill Haworth as Sally, Bert Convy as Cliff, Lotte Lenya as Fraulein Schneider, Jack Gilford as Herr Schultz, and Joel Grey as the Emcee. ■

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CABARET plays July 23 - August 15, Thursday - Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m., weekend matinees at 2 p.m. at Cabrillo Crocker Theater, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA. Tickets: 831-479-6154 or online at [www.cabrillostage.com](http://www.cabrillostage.com) - email: [info@cabrillostage.com](mailto:info@cabrillostage.com)

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Each summer since 1981, Cabrillo Stage has provided thousands of Santa Cruz county residents and visitors with unforgettable, critically acclaimed productions. Cabrillo Stage is noted for innovative sets, beautiful costumes, an outstanding pit orchestra and talented, professional performers. Producing

Artistic Director, Jon Nordgren.

Musical numbers include: Willkommen, So What? Don't Tell Mama, Mein Herr, Perfectly

Marvelous, Two Ladies, Tomorrow Belongs to Me, Maybe This Time, Money, Married, If You Could See Her, Cabaret.

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