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Well-balanced cast makes Cabaret a joy to watch

The gritty side of 1930s pre-war Ger-**Many** came to life on the stage of the John Elliott Theatre Thursday night, as Georgetown Globe Productions opened Cabaret.

The musical is set in the midst of the Kit Kat Club, a sleazy bar in 1930s Berlin. The story revolves around an English cabaret performer Sally Bowles, and the brief affair she has with American writer Cliff Bradshaw, who has come to Berlin for inspiration to write a novel. Their relationship is jeopardized by the rise of the Nazi regime. As they try to maintain their relationship, Cliff's

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spinster landlady Fräulein Schneider struggles with her relationship with her Jewish suitor, Herr Schultz.

The production features a well-balanced cast that makes it a joy to watch.

Opening the show is Scott Carmichael, who plays the Kit Kat Club emcee. He is brilliant as the often sleazy and suggestive greeter.

Cheyenne Harvey dominates the stage as Sally. Not only does Harvey have the power and range with her spectacular voice, her body language and stage presence are second to none.

Paul Stodolny plays Cliff. Although Stodolny portrays his character

without much gusto, he comes alive the moment he sings, and is a balanced match for Harvey.

Fräulein Schneider and Herr Schultz are played by husband and wife team, Nanci McNeil-Llewellyn and Mark Llewellyn. Their characters not only have an endearing quality with their well-spoken accents, they have a visual appeal, utilizing both costume and a wonderful air of innocence.

David Brock plays Ernst Ludwig, a Nazi party organizer who befriends Bradshaw. Brock adds to the production, with his character's cunning and threatening manner.

Nicole Latham gives her character the prostitute Fräulein Kostan a seductive aura and adds a bit of comic relief, as she keeps sneaking more of her 'brothers and cousins' to her room.

There are numerous smaller parts, and a great chorus, which make up the Kit Kat Girls and Boys. They perform numerous dance numbers, most of them somewhat risqué, in keeping with the atmosphere of the seedy club.

A Neil Diamond Tribute

February 19, 2004, 8 p.m.

Costumes, (or lack of them) are outstanding. Many times, the chorus is clad in panties, garter belts and bras, and some of their moves might be considered provocative— to the credit of the show. To candy-coat that aspect would destroy the show's grittiness. Globe deserves praise for its bold initiative to remain true to the musical.

This marks the first Globe production in recent memory with the orchestra positioned onstage, which not only adds to the show's sound quality (and control) but adds a visual element to the production as well. One of the strongest points is the sound. This show utilizes perhaps some of the cleanest vocal sound amplification Globe has ever utilized.

Cabaret is no doubt one of Globe's most powerful efforts in recent years, and shouldn't be missed. They have managed to meld together a balanced mix of talent, visuals and sound to create a moving production. The show continues this week.

—By Ted Brown, staff writer









