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Enjoyable Forever Plaid

REGINA LEE

A QUARTET of boys ploughs into a bus loaded with Catholic schoolgirls one night in the 1960s, sending them to the hereafter.

After 40 years of what appears to be stuck in limbo, these boys dressed in very 50s plaid outfits are sent back to earth in Actors Studio Bangsar for that one big show that they never got to put on.

And that goes the plot.

Calling it a musical would be unfair as a musical is a story with occasional songs. Forever Plaid is a 90-minute-long medley of more than 20 Golden Oldie songs, with very little story woven in.

But that does not make it a pain to watch. The show offers excellent showmanship and tight and seemingly effortless harmonies by the four male singers.

The four characters were also given a breath of life with very distinctive quirks and characteristics. One's nerdy, one's sickly, another is funny and the last, I think, is the ladies' man.

By the final number, there is already a sense of affection and kinship for the characters.

The songs are mostly slapstick humorous, but always energetic and fun, getting the audience to sing along.

In the almost packed opening night, the boys from London wowed us all. Their voices were extraordinary and the accompaniment on the bass and piano fitted like a glove.

There were the usual technical glitches that should be resolved by now.

Judging by the looks on everyone's faces around me, the show was no run-of-the-mill act, although it gets tiring that people insist on clapping after every song.

Forever Plaid ends its run on July 20 with shows at 8.30pm, and Sunday matinees at 6pm. Tickets prices start from RM53.



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