

'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels' shines at Spotlight Theater

By Kyla Woodard
For Clay Today

FLEMING ISLAND — Guests were transported to the French Riviera at the Fleming Island Spotlight Center last Friday night. The theater center hosted the second showing of its musical rendition of the 1988 classic film "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" starring Steve Martin and Michael Caine. The play tells the tale of two British and American con men who scam through the French Riviera, placing bets and making discoveries.

"The show itself is a jam-packed two-hour show with tons of singing, dancing, an incredibly talented cast of 14 actors and it's just a great space to bring your friends and family and enjoy a good show," said creative director Curtis Reed.

The evening show began at 7 p.m., with dinner at 5:30. Guests indulged in roast turkey, sugar-glazed ham, a baked potato, honey-roasted carrots and a vegetable souffle. While eating, they were also able to enjoy live vocal entertainment.

Tables were donned with elegant black tablecloths and a sparkly red table runner to reflect a night of elegance.

The performance began with a prestigious dance number as actors made their way through the crowd onto the center stage. Lights filled the room as guests were suddenly transported to the Riviera.

Actors tangoed around the stage in their gowns and suits, imitating the feel of a wealthy Riviera.

The theater "in the round" style placed the stage in the middle of the theater,



with audience members surrounding it. This allowed guests to be immersed in the show, with some scenes taking place in the audience area.

Laughter and applause filled the room as guests were mesmerized by the bright musical numbers and comedic one-liners. The performance also featured multiple elaborate partner and group dance numbers.

Guests Ellen Bloom and Brad Bloom attended the performance to celebrate their anniversary. They said these types of shows are desperately needed on Fleming Island.

"This is the second show we've been to, and it's delightful to have a place to go that's so close to home. And it being a 501 (c) makes it even more fun because you know you're doing something good and helping out those that are progressing in this [business]," Ellen Bloom said.

Guest Marylou Cash said that it's about time this type of entertainment was added to the island, and she hopes it continues.

"I'm happy that they're here, and I just want to welcome them to Fleming Island. I hope they can stay for a very long time and be very prosperous here," said Cash.

To conclude the show, the actors came out on stage to give one final bow. Then they made their way to the front of the building to greet guests on their way out.

The show is only the second one to have premiered at the venue this season. The Spotlight Center opened in April and has a long roster of performances coming up for all ages.

The next set of performances will feature shows such as "The Addams Family," "Bakersville," "Everything's Coming Up Carol: A Tribute Show," and many more.

"Everything we do is family-friendly. We just try to provide classic things that are well-known," said managing director Norma Luther.

"Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" will continue running until June 24. For tickets or to see a list of future shows and purchase tickets visit www.spotlighteventscenter.com.