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Driving Miss Daisy a hilarious ride

Cast transports audience back in time

By Pam McGaha

Anticipation ran high for this year's Rivertime Players production of the original comedy, Driving Miss Crazy, and Friday night's premier performance did not disappoint. Written and directed by Shane Bridges, who also played Toby Taylor, Miss Crazy's new chauffeur, the laughs came tumbling off the stage like popcorn, and the audience was kept in stitches from the opening scene to the final curtain call.

Set in 1962, Driving Miss Crazy revolves around Toby and his band of children who had escaped from a cruel orphanage. When Toby takes the job of Miss Crazy's chauffeur after she fires her current driver Hoke, played by Bryan McDonald, he brings his charges to live in Miss Crazy's bomb shelter with hilarious consequences.

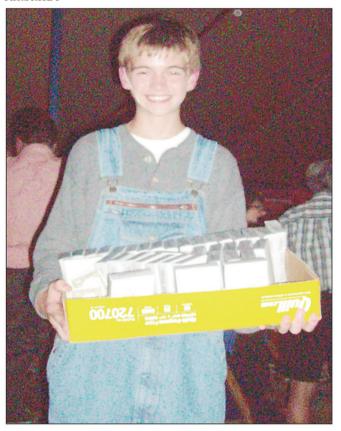
Miss Crazy, played by Elicia Spain, and her son, Boolie, played by Mark Tubbs, are blissfully unaware of the children's existence, and when Dottie Hill and David Taylor as Turner and Hootch arrive on the scene searching for the missing charges, plot thickens.

The orphans, Jerry Evans as Jim Bob, Victor Evans as John Boy, Amber Lyles as Ester, Jake Lyles as Ben. Hannah Mills as Suzette and Hunter Jordan as Sturgill shone throughout the production. For some of them, this was their first night under the big top, but they performed like pros. Considering that it was her first Toby show, Mills gave an especially impressive performance as the group's mother figure.

Brett Jordan, as Miss visiting Crazy's nephew, Jethro, and Jenni Turner, as

See "Driving Miss Crazy" on A4

Driving Miss Crazy



Like scores of traveling tent actors who came before them, the entire cast hawked popcorn, peanuts, hot dogs, and drinks between acts. Above, Hunter Jordan, aka orphan Sturgill, sold boxes of fancy Rivertime Player's Taffy, and many lucky patrons found slips inside their boxes that could be turned in for prizes, including genuine imitation ruby and diamond rings.

the worst time and cause trou-ble for the orphans. Of course, all is well in the end. knowledge and appreciation of the performing arts. The community is fortunate

Driving Miss Crazy was book- cious amenity as the Rivertime ended with vaudevillian-style Players and their tent repertoire skits, sketches and sing-alongs.

and fine performances, Driving over seven hundred active trav-Miss Crazy offered some fine eling tent companies in the na-

the entire cast hawked popcorn, peanuts, hot dogs, and drinks between acts. They also sold boxes of fancy Rivertime Player's Taffy, and many lucky patrons found slips inside their. patrons found slips inside their

maining repertory tent show, a children 12 and under \$2. historic cultural asset that can dedicated to preserving and rivertimeplayers.org. continuing the repertory tent theatre experience. They are a group of volunteers who strive to provide a community-based performing arts organization for the purpose of presenting dramatic and musical theatre;

present quality family entertainment; create opportunities

Maggie, the local debutante for children and adults to dewho is on him like a shadow, velop talents in all aspects of also play integral characters, theatre arts; and to foster, proones who always show up at mote, and increase the public

In true repertoire fashion, to enjoy such a rare and pretheater. At one time in the early In addition to the witty script 1920s there were more than musical scores, including Dation, but by the mid-1950s only vid Taylor's Little Piggy Lullaby. a few troupes still traveled. Like scores of traveling tent actors who came before them, to experience the thrill of one of

Doors open at 6, pre-show boxes that could be turned in for fun begins at 7 and Driving prizes, including genuine imita- Miss Crazy begins each night tion ruby and diamond rings.

The Rivertime Players serve at 7 p.m. under the big top next to the Parsons Municipal Cenas caretakers of the last re- ter. Tickets are \$7 at the door;

For more information about trace its roots to its founding the Rivertime Players, or to 114 years ago, and they are make tax-free donations, go to