

'I Do! I Do' showing its age but has sentimental appeal

By Kathleen Allen
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Once upon a time, love followed a certain pattern. Marriage, babies, turbulence, reconciliation, growing old together.

Sometimes it still happens that way.

But in case you haven't a clue what that's like, check out the small, charming musical "I Do! I Do!" at Live Theatre Workshop.

It's based on Jan de Hartog's play "The Fourposter" and was written by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, the creators of the small, charming musical "The Fantasticks."

"I Do! I Do!" spans the married life of Agnes (Molly Holleran) and Michael (Michael Martinez). It follows them from their wedding day to 50 years later as they prepare to move from the family home to smaller, more retiring digs.

It is sweet, sentimental and shows its age (it first played in the 1960s; the play it was based on was staged in the early 1950s).

It exploits every cliché of

fers from an overabundance of movement with little purpose and a lack of chemistry between the stars — they seemed much more like friends than friends and lovers.

But Holleran and Martinez, ably backed by the versatile Aryo Wicaksano on the piano, are talented singers. As a result, they gave the tunes' sentiments resonance.

While the singing was fine, the dancing was too much for the small stage. Neither actor is particularly light on the feet, and when the audience is practically on top of the actors, nearly every flaw can be seen and becomes a distraction.

OK, so the play isn't perfect. Nor does it speak to most people under 50. But you know, so what? Judging from Thursday night's older audience and the smiles on their faces, good singing, tender sentiments and a good old fashioned look at love kept them very happy.

◆ Contact reporter Kathleen Allen at kallen@azstarnet.com or 573-4128.

REVIEW

"I Do! I Do!"

• Presented by: Live Theatre Workshop.

• By: Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt

• Director: Missie Scheffman.

• When: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays through Aug. 24.

• Where: 5317 E. Speedway.

• Tickets: \$19, with discounts available.

• Information: 327-4242.

married life, from the husband with the wandering eye to the daughter who's marrying someone who isn't good enough for her ("My daughter is marrying an idiot," Michael sings in "Father of the Bride").

But it exploits with a certain charm, thanks to songs like "My Cup Runneth Over," which is simple, mushy and a tender tune.

Live Theatre's production, directed by Missie Scheffman, suf-



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Martinez and Molly Holleran are the complete cast of Live Theatre Workshop's production of "I Do! I Do!" They are also talented singers who give resonance to the sentiments expressed in the comedy's tunes.