

**Review: White Christmas**

**By Suzanne Cleave**

***White Christmas* at Theatre Royal Plymouth**

The Theatre Royal Plymouth hosts Irving Berlin's *White Christmas The Musical* this week, and if you're not in the mood for the Christmas festivities when it starts, you definitely will be by the time the show is over.

We're immediately transported to World War Two, on Christmas Eve 1944, where Captain Bob Wallace gives his fellow soldiers a little reminder of home with the first rendition of *White Christmas*.

Fast forward a decade and Bob, along with former Corporal Phil Davis are stars of New York's Broadway.

They meet sisters Betty and Judy Haynes, and after some feel good singing and dancing, and some minor disagreements along the way, the foursome find themselves on the way to snowy Vermont where, on arrival, they discover that their former General, Henry Waverly is running the Pine Trees resort.

But the unusual catastrophic lack of snow in the Green Mountain State means there is a lack of paying guests and the bills are piling up.

The dashing pair come up with a plan to get the Haynes sisters on board and put on a dazzling show, which, they hope, will bring life back to Pine Trees.

The show oozes 1950s glamour, with some great performances and well-known songs like '*Sisters*,' '*Happy Holiday*' and the classic '*White Christmas*.'

But it also has some tender moments, of friendship, romance and a touching glimpse into the respect held by soldiers for their superiors long after the war has ended.

Matthew Jeans as Bob Wallace and Dan Burton who plays Phil Davis give captivating performances, and the Haynes sisters, played by Jessica Daley and Emily Langham, complement them perfectly.

The chorus was fantastic and there was some humour along the way, particularly from

receptionist Martha Watson (played by Sally Ann Triplett) and the loveable handyman Ezekiel (played by Kraig Thornber).

For those who have seen the film, *White Christmas*, starring Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney, you won't be disappointed in this stage adaptation. *White Christmas The Musical* lives up to all expectations. In what other production would you be guaranteed snow?! You are bound to leave the theatre with a smile on your face, counting your blessings, and singing the songs long after you get home.

*White Christmas The Musical* is at the Theatre Royal Plymouth until Saturday.