

Review: Footloose

By Amber Roderick

***Footloose* at Theatre Royal Plymouth**

The original 1984 film starring Kevin Bacon, may have been a massive hit, but the stage show is impressive in its own right. *Footloose* at the Theatre Royal showcases not only fantastic actors, but also exceptionally talented musicians. Often the musicians hide in the pit and get a short applause at the end of the show. In this adaptation of *Footloose*, the actors often run to the back of the stage between scenes to play their instrument.

Teenagers in Bomont in Hicksville have something quite unique to be rebellious about in the story of *Footloose*. Five years earlier, a fatal car accident took place which pushed the town council to ban all dancing. The victims had been under the influence of alcohol and drugs, but dancing is what took the stick.

Ren McCormack moves from popular Chicago to the small-minded world of Bomont. He moves with his mother who has recently been abandoned by his father. It may seem like the leading man has more important problems of his own, but his love for dance is the focus. Ren is desperate to have the town dancing again, so he comes across as the perfect troublemaker.

Local Reverend, Shaw Moore is happy for dancing to be banned and he especially wants his daughter Ariel to stay clear. The Reverend's daughter may have a bad-boy boyfriend (Chuck), but her and Ren are naturally drawn to each other. Ariel wants a reason to leave Bomont, and Ren may be the excuse.

From travelling to neighbouring towns to attend dances, to debates in church, the audience follow the journey of dance through Ren, his friends, and his enemies.

With popular musical numbers like 'Holding out for a Hero' and 'Let's hear it for the Boy', audiences who watched the film first time around will not be disappointed.

Fantastic choreography, brilliant voices and loveable characters make the musical, but



the energy and passion is what makes Footloose unique.

You'll laugh, maybe cry, but you will definitely dance.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

The Theatre Royal Plymouth is a registered arts and education charity.
Registered charity number 284545.