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“Daddy Long Legs”

*written by Wilfred M. Phillips Jr.
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The International City Theater (ICT) opened its 33rd theatrical season at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center on Friday, February 23, featuring a delightful musical, “Daddy Long Legs”, based on the novel written in 1912 by Jean Webster. Several adaptations of the famous novel have appeared on stage and on screen. The most notable film of this musical was featured in 1955 with dapper dancer Fred Astaire and actress Terry Moore as cast members. Mary Jo DuPrey is the director and the music and lyrics are by Paul Gordon,

“Daddy Long Legs” is a two-act musical rags to riches tale of new found love in the early 1900s. Actress Ashley Ruth Jones plays Jesusha Abbott, a French orphan girl. Actor Deno Nicandros plays Jarvis Pendleton, a millionaire philanthropist (Daddy Long Legs) who anonymously sponsors Jesusha’s writing education at a prestigious women’s college in Massachusetts. In order for her to receive a free education, she must write to her benefactor regularly and inform him about her college experiences.

The performance and singing by the two actors, along with the musical renditions directed by Bill Wolfe, are superb. Jones performs one of the most memorable songs in the musical, “Secrets of Happiness,” which is guaranteed to impress and move your heartstring.

After Jesusha graduates from college and becomes a successful writer, she finally meets her Daddy Long Legs. She is filled with confusion and anger mixed with love. However, during their meeting they eventually express their love for each other.

“Daddy Long Legs” is currently performing through March 11, 2018, at The International City Theatre located in the Long Beach Performing Art Center in downtown Long Beach, 330 E. Seaside Way.

For show times, ticket information, and reservations go to www.InternationalCityTheatre.org.

I highly recommend this outstanding musical for the enjoyment of the entire family.