

THOSE FABULOUS FIFTIES COMMUNITY COMMENT: Mike Goldsby May 5, 2016

The 1950s. I got to spend my first 8 years in the Fifties and I certainly have some vivid memories. Every household got a car and a black and white television. Disneyland opened. So did McDonalds and a bunch of other drive up burger stands. I remember I liked Ike but I was a little too young to see the appeal of Elvis. We watched Ed Sullivan every Sunday night and I obediently participated in school vaccinations and the Duck and Cover drills, climbing under our desks to protect ourselves from nuclear war.

But even younger people who weren't there have a fondness for images of the Fifties. The hairdos, the poodle skirts, Hot Rods and Father Knows Best. Some young people think the 50s were all like the musical Grease or the TV series Happy Days.

Humboldt Light Opera Company's Boomer+ Troupe is doing their take on that memorable decade, through storytelling and music. This weekend, check out *Those Fascinating Fifties*, a look at everything from the explosion of television and rock 'n roll, to the Cold War and civil rights.

The Boomer+ Troupe is the brainchild of Carol Ryder and my friend Tracey Barnes Priestley. Carol is the Humboldt Light Opera Company Artistic Director. Tracey is an author and Life Coach who specializes in aging issues. She is also an amateur performer.

Tracey has a best-selling book, Duck Pond Epiphany, and is an award-winning columnist, writing now about issues people have in the second half of life. She has had a series on KEET and it is worth visiting her blog, The Second Half online.

Tracey told me this has been one of the best casts she has ever had the opportunity to work with. She said "We're having so much fun and honestly, I think the audience feels that." Both women agreed that what makes this show truly come alive are the energetic performers themselves, each of whom have experienced life in the fifties.

This show is being offered this weekend in two different venues. You can see it Friday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Ferndale Repertory Theatre, on Main Street. You can also see it Saturday, May 21 at 2 p.m. at the Eureka Women's Club. That is located at 1531 J Street in Eureka.

Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at Holly Yashi Retail on 9th St.in Arcata. They are also at Rings Pharmacy on Main Street in Ferndale. You can find out more online at www.hloc.org

You can also buy tickets at the door but advance purchase *is* recommended. Previous performances have sold out.

I asked Tracey about the audience reaction from previous performances. One grandmother remarked it was the best walk down memory lane she had in years while her 16 year old granddaughter called it a fun history lesson and was amazed how different things were back then.

Check out *Those Fabulous Fifties*; Friday night in Ferndale and Saturday afternoon in Eureka. Look for Tracey in the Lucille Ball polka dotted dress. This is Mike Goldsby for Community Comment.