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## Northport's 'Golf' is lively floor show

By **Kim Fletcher**

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NORTHPORT — Northport Music Theater is blessed this inaugural season with remarkable talent, as continues to be apparent in the current production of "Golf, the Musical," a light entertainment with somewhat limited appeal.

The script is conceived by Eric Krebs, with book, music and lyrics by Michael Roberts, and it is well directed by the experienced Jason Bannister.

The show is clever and lively, but somewhat silly and has questionable appeal to anyone but the most ardent musical lovers, no matter the subject, or, not surprisingly, to golfers.

In fact, "Golf, the Musical" would make a fantastic fundraiser presented by golfers for golfers at a golf course.

There's absolutely no plot; the play consists only of broad comedic songs, sight gags and sketches about golf, golfers, golfing — you get the idea. The show is resplendent in golf clubs, stereotypical golf attire, an impressively great set and even a golf cart. The show is reminiscent of something that works well as a dinner theater entertainment, being only 90 minutes in length, and it is definitely for mature audiences.

But why a musical about golf? One may only speculate that the playwright saw that musicals inspired by films, or those about lions, cats, witches or murdering barbers are just too mundane. Maybe he wondered why more musicals aren't written about sporting events?

"Golf, the Musical" is essentially a floor show and, with the talent Bannister has assembled, he just had to step back and let 'er rip.

The opening number, with all the cast members, Roger Marcotte, Alan Bailey, Nathan Raleigh and Kristen Burkholder, is a tribute to the "Show About Golf" and confesses that the show is basically silly, a show about a boring, elitist sport.



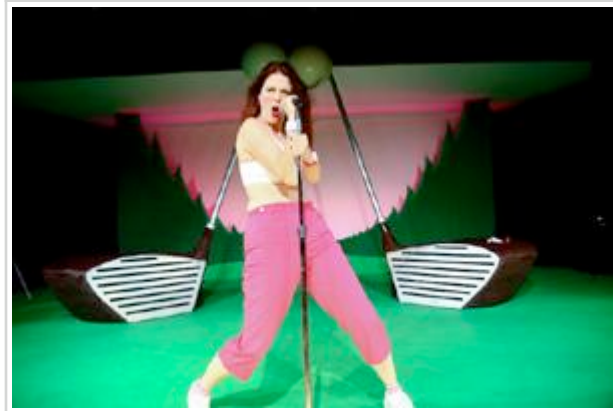
Alan Bailey sings "Scratch Golfer" in Northport Music Theater's "Golf, The Musical." The show has final performances this week.

Bailey has a marvelous voice and one of the best songs in the show; "The Beautiful Time" also is one of the more clever. It turns out to be a love song to miniature golf! Marcotte shines in his plaid knickers, and the tribute to the Bing Crosby/Bob Hope on-the-road films is done exceedingly well by Raleigh and Bailey doing their best impressions of the legendary stars and golfers in "The Road to Heaven."

Burkholder, the only female in the show, is high-spirited, can really belt and deliver a song; her role is indicative of the minor role that females hold in the world of professional golf.

"Golf: The Musical" continues 7:30 p.m. daily through Saturday, July 28, and there also is a 3:30 p.m. matinee Saturday. Northport Music Theater is on Route 1. For ticket information, see the calendar on page C2 or visit [www.northportmusictheater.com](http://www.northportmusictheater.com).

Kim Fletcher is a journalist and holds a master of fine arts in theater degree from Wayne State University's Hilberry Repertory Company in Detroit.



Kristen Burkholder belts one out in "Golf, The Musical."