

# Review: Reefer Madness hits Rising Action Theatre through April 11th



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Reefer Madness, the award-winning musical spoof of the 1936 anti-drug documentary of the same title, hits Rising Action Theatre through April 11th. If you want to have a fun night out, this show is just that.

Conceived by Kevin Murphy and Dan Studney, *Reefer Madness* takes us back to a time of satanic jazz, five and dimes, and a fear of drugs which rivaled Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign in the 1980's.

Jimmy and Mary are wholesome teens who are studying *Romeo and Juliet* for English class. As the show progresses, we watch young Jimmy and Mary's plight into a reefer den which results in over-the-top madness. We meet a lecturer, a tranny placard girl, a dealer, a den hostess, a reefer slut, an overgrown baby and even Jesus himself. Holy hasheesh!

Bill Dobbins brilliantly plays the authoritative lecturer (the narrator) and eases into a variety of cameo characters. Desiree DuBois, the placard girl who throughout the play holds up large signs that clearly state moral lessons, smokes up the joint with her naughty nurse glances and campy demeanor. Lindsey Forgey in the role of Sally delivers a memorable performance and shines in the number *Jimmy Takes A Hit*. Conor Walton who plays Jimmy, demonstrates the importance of thoughtful casting; he is perfect for the role. Walton's performance as the innocent teen turned stoner is entertaining and vocally solid in numbers *Romeo & Juliet* and *Jimmy Takes A Hit*. Chelsea Greenburg who plays the naive Mary turned bad girl delivers a lovely rendition of *Lonely Pew* and is paired well with Walton.

The company is well directed by Kevin Coughlin who keeps the storyline flowing and focused. The company frequently missteps Dave Campbell's clever choreography, yet delivers in the opening number *Reefer Madness* and *The Orgy*. Linda Matrone's lighting design compliments the show's gamut of emotions while the pre-recorded sound designed by David Hart seemed muffled at times.

Rising Action Theatre is a sweet, intimate theatre which is a perfect venue for this show. Rising Action Theatre is located at 840 Oakland Park Blvd. in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. For tickets by phone call 954-561-2225 or 800-595-4849. You can also visit them online at [www.risingactiontheatre.com](http://www.risingactiontheatre.com).