

BOSTON AND BEYOND/ART & ENTERTAINMENT

By Susan Mulford

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24: *DAMES AT SEA*



*Ephie Aardema**. Photo Credit: Nile Hawver/Nile Scott Shots.

Elliot Norton and IRNE Award-winner Ilyse Robbins brings her amazing flair as director and choreographer to this delightful cotton candy, marshmallow fluff, “Tap-Happy” production. She has blended a magical meld of 6 pitch perfect vocalist and dance worthy cast members whose infectious joy for this musical radiates across the lights. The Greater Boston Stage Company’s presentation of one of Broadway’s “Biggest Little Musicals” is wholesome fun and sheer entertainment. The story surrounds sweet little Ruby from Hometown, U.S.A. Within 24 hours, she arrives in New York, falls in love, moves from the chorus and catapults to becoming a star on Broadway. The show features international tap champion and extraordinarily, seasoned, young musical performer, Ephie Aardema* as Ruby. Additionally the production boasts an all-star, International, Broadway, and Regional cast as follows. Sara Coombs as Joan; multiple IRNE winner and IRNE nominee Shana Dirik* as Mona; Taavon Gamble* as Dick; IRNE nominated Russell Garrett* as Hennesey/The Captain and Michael Seltzer* as Lucky. Each member, singularly and jointly own their roles and believably blend with each other in perfect balance.

This is a celebratory show that has been fashioned in the similar style as the golden era of movie musicals in the days of Busby Berkeley spectacles. *Dames at Sea* is a boatload of laughs with non-stop, rollicking tap dancing and upbeat music along with love at first sight scenarios and happy endings. With Book and Lyrics by George Haimsohn and Robin Miller along with Music by Jim Wise, the show provides rich and fun entertainment. States Director Robbins, “I like to think of *Dames at Sea* as a cross between 42nd Street, Anything Goes, and Singin’ in the Rain.” Greater Boston Stage Company is easily located a short distance from Boston at 395 Main Street in Stoneham. Tickets for this ‘feel good musical’ may be purchased at www.greaterbostonstage.org.