

Review: 3 Redneck Tenors serve up Texas-size serving of music, laughter



By [Marilyn Bauer](#) - Posted October 29, 2009

STUART — The mullet heads are back, this time offering up their own cockeyed take on the Great White Way. They are like troll dolls with big voices, bad wigs and hairy legs.

The 3 Redneck Tenors are in town for an extended two-week run to refine their latest show, “Broadway Bound.” They opened Thursday night in the world premiere at The Lyric, tackling everything from “Les Miz” to “Gypsy.” Talk about a love affair with the audience; by the time the trio was finished the capacity crowd (of all ages) was on its feet — this after clapping, singing, woo-hooing, wolf-calling and breaking out in laughter that was pure glee.

It was my first time seeing the Rednecks and I had no idea what to expect. I found myself laughing out loud. They’re crazy fun, and add in those classically trained voices, a virtuoso violin player called Billie Pickle (Adam Moss) and you’ve got an evening of pure entertainment.

The curtain rises on the boys’ Paris, Texas, trailer park and before you know it Billy Bob (Alex Bumpus) is singing “Willkommen” from “Cabaret” in cutoff shorts and a raveled orange sweatshirt. The show has a plot line narrated by The Colonel, Dinny McGuire, who in real life has spent 25 years as the ringmaster for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus and the Big Apple Circus. He also sings bass.

The set features an outhouse, Airstream and plastic furniture — all the better to pop beers and wish upon a star peeking out from behind an oil rig. The cousins decide to follow their dreams and head for Broadway. “Hold on to your badoobies,” Bill Bob says. Their trip takes about 15 minutes, and when we rejoin the Rednecks after intermission they’ve installed their Airstream in Times Square, adding bars on the window and a New York City portable toilet.

Their first job in the Big Apple is at a haunted Howard Johnson’s, which leads the trio into a beautifully sung slapstick takeoff on “The Phantom of the Opera.” They audition — “A Chorus Line” in “Flashdance” dancer togs to “Everything is Beautiful at the Ballet” and bring down the house with their rendition of “One” complete with silver sequined top hats.

The boys finally get a job — I’m not sure where, but they left the audience gasping when they showed up on stage in women’s bathing suits. Billy Bob’s leopard number with a Centurion head piece was outrageous. Billy Billee (Blake Davidson), who sings baritone, opted for a hot pink bikini with sparkling Christmas lights, and Billy Joe (Matthew Lord who wrote and directed the show) wore some kind of belly-dancing-diaphanous number.

When they sang “You Gotta Have A Gimmick” from “Gypsy” it was pandemonium. This number also allowed for Bumpus, who is a virtuoso trumpet player, to show his stuff (pun intended).

Toward the end of the show, Billy Pickle finally gets his solo and plays a medley from “Fiddler on the Roof” that was simply divine.

The Rednecks on Broadway is a sure cure for what ails you. It is more than a few laughs, It is a revue put on by talented opera singers who have a Texas-size sense of humor.