

# **CHARLOTTE SQUAWKS: SIX DEGREES OF DESECRATION**

Book, Lyrics & Power Point Design by Brian Kahn

Directed by Mike Collins

Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

McGlohon Theatre

February 11-20, 2010

Laugh. Laugh More. Laugh until you choke. Laugh until you fall helplessly on the floor gasping for air. That was the reaction of the entire audience on Thursday's opening night to Charlotte Squawks 2010 Six Degrees of Desecration. The diabolical geniuses behind Squawks, Mike Collins and Brian Kahn have done their job well. According to Director Collins' note desecration is defined as, "The act of depriving something of its sacred character-or the disrespectful or contemptuous treatment of that which is held to be sacred by a group or individual" and that is exactly what Collins, Kahn, and their talented troupe have done. For two hours they skewer everything and everyone that "have pissed us off" in 2009 in Charlotte with song, dance and above all else, humor.

Nothing is sacred in this sixth edition from the show opening when "Not Mayor. Not Governor" Pat McCrory tells us to turn off our cell phones via power point to the rousing finale "Twitter" to the tune of "Thriller" with zombie dancers. The talented cast sometimes in sequins, sometimes in frog suits set out to offend us hilariously with their take on famous adulterers, banks and their mergers, Myer's Park moms, and snow storms. I don't want to give away too many details because it will ruin the fun but be assured Ken Lewis and Julius Peppers don't come off looking too good. The songs "Jerky Boys" and "My Husband's Back" alone are worth the price of admission.

The cast: Mike Collins, Kevin Harris, Robbie Jaeger, Johanna Jowett, Brian Kahn, Susan Roberts Knowlson, Alan Morgan, Carmen Schultz, Beth Troutman, and LouAnn Vaughn bring enthusiasm, interesting dance moves, and decent voices to this absolutely delightful send-up. Everyone who had any part in this show including the band, the costumers, and the underappreciated tech guy did a marvelous job. A few jokes fell flat, and unfortunately, a few lines were lost, but that's not the point. In these tough times this show makes us laugh at what just normally makes us crazy. As soon as you get your unemployment check run out and buy a ticket. This show is good for the soul.

**Review by Laura Pfizenmayer – Arts A la Mode**