

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

by David Marlowe

Arvada Center for the Arts: 11/24 - 12/27

The Arvada Center's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" is sheer ecstasy! It's a glitzy, glittering sparkling Holiday Hit!

It seems that the probabilities for the staging of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* are legion.

Every time Arvada Center stages it, it feels like a completely new show. This production is fresh, flashy and about as much blissful showbiz fun as one can hope to experience on a night out at the theatre. David B. Johnson is the find of the season. He's a triple threat with looks and charisma for days. What more could you ask? Sarah Rex is a spectacular Narrator. Her acting and singing have received kudos in the press long before she knocked us

out in Arvada Center's Miss Saigon. Henry Award winner Stephen Day (Javert in "Les Miserables") adds sparkling humor as a skate boarding Jacob as well as a petulant, peeved and pouting Potiphar. David Villella creates a Pharaoh that is sheer musical theatre magic. The male chorus is utterly astounding all round with Rob Costigan and Patric Case standing out in the ensemble! Whether being led by Rob Reynolds (Levi) in One More Angel in Heaven, Justin Stapp (Benjamin) in Benjamin's Calypso or Matthew J. Schneider (Reuben) in Those Canaan Days these actors soar! The choreography is the tightest it has ever been in the many productions of this show at Arvada Center, and that even goes for what gets generally passed off as the ultra disco Mega Mix at the finale. Here the choreography is as studied and precise as it has been all throughout Stephen Bourneuf's stunningly directed production. Brian Mallgrave's scenic design is his usual masterful work, and Gail J. Gober's dazzling lighting, the stuff of legend. Chris Campbell's costumes are all eye-poppers. David Nehls' music direction in combination with Steve Stevens' sound design makes this show an auditory banquet to give thanks for. Go! Go! Go! Go! Go! Go! Go!

Not to be missed.

