

An Evening of Music and Comedy
Starring DEBBIE REYNOLDS
Virginia Musical Theatre
Dec. 5 - 7, 2008
For tickets call: (757)-340-5446

Hello, I'm Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large.

Remember that old ballad where Frankie catches her Johnny messin' around with a gal named Nelly Bly? Then she does him in with her little ole "44". Our Debbie would never do that, I'm quite certain. However, she has every right to sing Frankie's lament that "there ain't no good in men." She did jokingly admit to having a fleeting thought of pushing Eddie Fisher over the falls when she played Niagra.

She talks about her past personal life and her other two money grabbing husbands (one a Virginia gentleman no less!) but she mainly recalls highlights of fabulous 60 years in show business. I'm not always keen on long strolls down memory lane. Debbie, though, is like a little bird who chatters and twitters and flutters about the stage with lightness and ease. As a result, tales of long ago are tossed off quickly and the show moves at a fast up beat clip.

She along with two topnotch musicians, Joey Singer at the piano and Jerry Gennario on drums work with a sound track to produce a big band sound. It's in essence a one-woman show that this petite song bird calls one of the last surviving vaudeville acts. She talks a lot and much of what she says is very funny indeed. Her speaking voice has changed considerably from her movie days. It's got a pleasing, husky saloon quality to it that sounds a little like Carol Channing. Well, not really but a little. When she sings it's a totally different matter. The voice is solid and sure, free of vibrato. She can belt out Judy Garland songs, approach a Streisandesque quality and her own sweet, clear easy style is alive and well. She does impressions of several Hollywood legends, shows film clips on a giant screen, and sometimes sings along with the movie.

The show is presented in a night club format and she plays with the audience and speaks directly to them a lot. A show of hands reveals that most of them are over fifty. "Who else would know who I am?" she jokes. That may be true. But the full house of loyal fans quite simply adored her. And so did I. It occurs to me that I've called her Debbie and never mentioned her last name. Who needs to? She is Debbie doing Debbie, a unique great dame of show business..

This is Edgar Loessin with Loessin at Large and I'll see you at the next opening.