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Madcap Comedy Lend Me a Tenor at Indy's Beef and Boards

12

[Major Jester](#), Yahoo Contributor NetworkDec 30, 2013 "Share your voice on Yahoo websites. [Start Here.](#)"[Flag](#)[Post a comment](#)

The 2014 season at the Indianapolis Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre begins with the madcap hysterical comedy *Lend Me a Tenor*. Penned by Ken Ludwig, this farce is in its 25th year of production. Set in a Cleveland hotel suite in 1936, this hilarious romp chronicles the misadventures of the Cleveland Opera Company as it attempts to hire a famous Italian opera star for one of its productions.

The convoluted story begins with the late arrival of Tito Morelli, Italian opera star and lady's man. One mishap after another result in Tito's taking a double dose of tranquilizers. As he is mistaken for dead, a plot is hatched to have a member of the opera company's staff (Max) stand in for Tito in the role of Otello. The Otello costume successfully hides the identity of Max. However Tito awakes and dons his costume as well resulting in two Titos in the fray. Throw in Tito's voluptuous wife who leaves and returns, two women who chase him, the opera manager trying to hide the "dead" Tito, and an obnoxious bell hop who seems to show up at the worst possible time and you get the feel for the hilarious chaos that follows.

Starring as Saunders is longtime Beef & Boards favorite Eddie Curry. David Schmittou plays Max. Craig Underwood stars as the famous tenor Tito Merelli. Jeff Stockberger, another Beef & Boards favorite, is the bellhop. Jill Kelly has the role of Maria and Erin Cohenour plays Diana. Rounding out the cast are Erin West as Maggie and Gerri Weagraff as Julia.

Darrin Murrell is the Director of *Lend Me a Tenor*. The cast is obviously having a ball with this production. Curry hits the stage running with the energy and pizzazz you can always expect from his work. Stockberger's bell hop character makes you laugh as soon as he makes his many entrances. His facial expressions are animated with perfect timing. Schmittou shines as Max, and Underwood's stage presence fills the bill. Cohenour is the self promoting vampish career climber and Kelly pops in and out with a great character portrayal. West is enjoyable as the Tito chasing daughter of Saunders and Weagraff is marvelous in her portrayal of the pushy matron of the opera company.

Lend Me a Tenor is on stage for 36 performances through Feb. 2 in the intimate space of Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre. Tickets include Chef Odell Ward's dinner buffet, prepared in-house for each performance, and select beverages. Parking is always free. For reservations, call the Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre Box Office at 317.872.9664 anytime between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays. Check the [Beef and Boards website](#) for details.

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