

Frankly Ben

In 1920, the Palace Theater was built by Sylvester Z. Poli in Waterbury, CT. However, the Palace only opened in 1922. At that time the Palace was a movie theater instead of a performing theater, which it is now. All this fun at the Palace ended when it was closed down for 18 years. The Palace reopened in 2004 after four years of restoration with 30 million dollars. The organ pipes to the right and left of the stage were built for ornate decoration, but there was only once a working pipe organ. This organ pipe was destroyed when they closed down the building. Now the Palace hosts plays or shows with acting and singing. If you want to find out more details about the Palace Theater go to their web site, www.palacetheaterct.org.

While I was at the Palace Theater, I saw the play called "Frankly Ben." The play was about Ben Franklin when he was younger around his teenage years. He had three people that helped him throughout his life. Ben also had a problem. It was his brother. His brother always bossed him around so he had to try to stand up to him. His brother is also his boss at work. In the end of the story he finally stood up to his brother. Also, it showed when Ben was much older signing the Declaration of Independence.

In the play my favorite part was when the three people that helped Ben in his life time played a game show with Ben. They played a game show to see if Ben learned anything of which they taught him. To teach him they sang songs and each person had a different thing to teach him, so there were different songs too. It was my favorite part because it taught the kids, adults, and teachers of the audience something they probably didn't know.

After the show was over some other kids and I got to go see backstage, the dressing rooms, and we got to interview the performers that performed "Frankly Ben." I got to ask questions of any kind I wanted. One question I asked was 'Do you ever get nervous before performing?' You probably already know the answer, YES! On the wall downstairs all the BIG performances, like STOMP and Hairspray, have a little poster painted onto the wall with all the performers' signatures.

I enjoyed the play but during some parts they talk too fast, so you don't understand what their saying. Other than that problem the show was awesome! I would recommend this show to anyone that wants to learn about Ben Franklin, but in a fun way. I give this show 4 ½ stars. I hope you could go out and watch this amazing, but educational show.

By: Victoria Teixeira