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Letter- Welcome back Tally Ho

By Debra Syptak

Congratulations to the new proprietors of Leesburg's historic Tally Ho Theater on a delightful reopening premiere on Friday, Jan. 11th. There was a choice of live family-oriented entertainment or a cinema presentation.

My husband and I chose the live performance. Wow! Live performers on stage in downtown Leesburg! What a great idea! It was quite different than our usual Friday night venue of easing back into matching lazy boy chairs to fall asleep in front of network TV.

We easily found a free parking space in the Municipal Garage next door to the theater and made our way to the lobby. I equate a night out in downtown Leesburg to stepping back in history to the 1940s and '50s, for an evening with my sweetheart, as my parents might have done during their courting days. Downtown Leesburg would make a convincing backdrop for a retro movie. This thought brings to mind recent news articles admonishing Leesburg residents and those in the surrounding communities to support the downtown business economy. I'm all for it.

Friday evening's live comedy show by two local groups, The Pickled Punks and Last Ham Standing, proved to be, as advertised, a family-oriented event. The performers engaged individuals of all ages to participate as they intermingled with the audience. I noticed groups of teens, young adults, parents with elementary aged children and members of the over 50s age group like me. There were two elementary age children sitting directly in front of me who seemed to be with their grandparents who eagerly waved their hands while shouting responses to prompting from the stage. The

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performers did a fine job of involving multiple members of the audience in the skits. I felt as if I were sitting at the family table at holiday time enjoying the banter. It was an evening of laughter and applause. We went home with the promise of more lively stage presentations in the future as well as the expected contemporary movies and cult classics.

The Market Street Production crew, David Wright, Steve Heaton and Dave Sly, offered an unforgettable, enchanting evening of live comedy on reopening night. Best wishes guys to all your new ideas, in the challenges and the successes that accompany a new business venture. Thanks for providing an evening of good, clean fun.

Debra Syptak

Leesburg

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