

Tap Dancing at the Jewel

By Christina Waters

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TAP TAP TAP Bianca Chesnut, as Darcy Fadham (center) leads the ensemble in *Who's Got Me*

Swan who plays the fourth member of the Peoria cabaret troupe. As casting agent Lindsey Walden, **Sarah Hadassah Negrón** is brilliant. Choreographer **Elle May Patterson** inspired her players to Broadway-quality heights and Scenic Designer **Skip Epperson** outdid himself with the production's versatile set.

A picky critic might wish for a more emotional shift at the story's 11th hour to lead into the ensemble toe-tapper at the end. I also wondered what happened to the concept of spotlights, especially during the flatly lit first Act. But there *is* a rousing "hell, yes!" moment, when our frustrated hero Joe realizes that he might just have a professional second chance, and he's not going to miss it.

Does **Who's Got Me?** have the white-knuckle political backdrop of *Cabaret* or *The Sound of Music*? No. Or a soul-baring solo, such as *Phantom's* The Music of the Night? Not really. But it does showcase with remarkable vivacity how a writer/composer with enough talent and tenacity can whip up something as impressive as **Who's Got Me?** And director/producer **Julie James** was smart enough to recognize Scharf's creativity and program this show for the holiday season.

Only an anti-musical Scrooge would fail to get caught up in

the infectious spirit of this charmer. Absolutely this show is for everyone of every age—bring your family! Only a few days left to enjoy the sight of a dozen professionals singing, cavorting, scheming, and tap dancing like it's 1938. So let's go on with the show! **Rowland Rebele** would have loved it.

Who's Got Me? – Book, lyrics and music by Jeffrey Scharf.
Directed by **Julie James**. Performed by Jewel Theatre Company.

If you go:

When: Runs through Dec. 23

Where: **COLLIGAN THEATER** at the Tannery Arts Center
1010 River Street, Santa Cruz

Tickets.
