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MorristownPatch

ARTS

Laura Hill Hits all the Right Notes

Jazz singer performed Sunday at The Bickford Theatre.

By [Liz Alterman](#) | [Email the author](#) | November 8, 2010

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Laura Hull, Morris County resident and jazz singer, transported the audience at the [Bickford Theatre](#) back in time to the days of a supper club. Her smooth vocals complemented the musical selections from black and white films in her show "[Marquee Melodies: The Music of the Movies](#)."

Beginning her first set with "I'm in the Mood for Love" from the 1935 film "Every Night at Eight," Hull's voice was both strong and ethereal.

Accompanied by Patrick Firth on piano and Steve LaSpina on upright bass, Hull engaged the audience by sharing little-known facts about well-loved jazz standards.

Before singing a soul-stilling version of "I Remember You," Hull told the audience that Johnny Mercer had written the lyrics for Judy Garland, whom he was rumored to be in love with at the time, and the next day brought what he'd written to Victor Schertzinger, who wrote the melody.

Another standard that stood out as a favorite with both Hull and the audience was the theme song to the 1963 film "Charade," which starred Cary Grant and Audrey Hepburn. The lyrics were written by Johnny Mercer and the music by Henry Mancini.

"People say that's the best Hitchcock film Hitchcock never directed," Hull joked.

What made the song extra special was the wonderful arrangement by Firth—whom Hull said arranges most of her tunes—which showcased the talents of all three performers.

Hull said she was inspired as a child by dramatic films that had a musical component, and recalled growing up in Queens and going to the Flushing Meadows theater to see the 1959 movie "A Hole in the Head" just to watch Frank Sinatra sing.

From that film, she then sang a lovely version of the song "All My Tomorrows," which she confessed always makes her cry "because it is so sweet."

Hull's radiant smile throughout the show proved she loved performing the material just as much as her audience enjoyed hearing it.

"She was wonderful," said Sylvia Rubens of Randolph. "I loved it. I will definitely see her again."

"Her voice is just amazing," said Bunny Brue, of Basking Ridge. "She is thoroughly entertaining."

While everything seemed flawless to the audience, Hull, a true perfectionist, confided after the show that if she'd had known the stage was set for the upcoming production of "[Moonlight and Magnolias](#)," a play about fashioning Margaret Mitchell's beloved novel into a screenplay, she would have definitely added the song "Gone With the Wind" to her film-influenced set list.

Hull closed her performance with a jaunty rendition of "How Deep is the Ocean?," the 1932 Irving Berlin tune from the film "The Life of Jimmy Dolan," which left audience members asking where and when they could see her again.

Lorraine Tversky, of Randolph, said she has seen Hull many times before and will continue to follow her. "I've seen her in other clubs, singing other tunes and she always sings beautifully," Tversky said.

For more information about Laura Hull's upcoming performances, visit www.laurahull.com.

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