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'Golf' scores for tunes, humor

By [Jan Sjostrom](#), Daily News Arts Editor
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Golfers tend to approach the game as seriously as heart surgeons do a double bypass, a fact that hasn't escaped the creators of *Golf: The Musical*.

The show at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre pokes gentle fun of golfers' idiosyncracies. The tone is tongue in cheek, the lockstep rhymes often corny, the skits almost painfully broad. There's no plot.

No matter. You don't even have to like golf to enjoy this breezy send-up, although it helps if you've at least played the game.

The revue was conceived by New York producer and theater owner Eric Krebs, who hired Michael Roberts to write the book, lyrics and songs.

Roberts' work in advertising clearly assists in the snappy lyrics and catchy tunes.

Rhymes like "respect" and "genuflect" snap together when a duffer fantasizes about being a scratch golfer. Worshippers assert "surely aces and eagles will follow us all the days of our lives" in a transmuted 23rd Psalm.

One could take issue with Roberts for including crocodiles in a song about the hazards of Florida golf courses, but, heck, what's the difference when you encounter a big-jawed reptile sunning on the fairway?

Musically, the show borrows from Top 40 — there's a sizzling nod to Ike and Tina Turner's *Proud Mary* — gospel, Broadway, the tango and a potpourri of other sources. J. Randall Booth does a yeoman's job at a keyboard concealed in a golf cart.

The cast, steered by Christopher Scott, who helmed the original New York production, mingles veterans of that production and Floridians Irene Adjan and Jack Lawson.

Naturally, old-timers Joel Blum and Christopher Sutton are more comfortable with the material than the newer players are. That makes for a two-tiered production in which Blum's and Sutton's scenes stand out more.

Blum's performance is as satisfying to watch as a long putt plunking into a hole. He sings charmingly, nails every joke and can even moon walk. Only a real pro could convincingly romance a driver, as he does in *Big Bertha*, when he sings "there's so much club to hit the ball, I guess size matters after all."

Sutton shines in his impersonation of a revivalist minister and a "Golf News Network" announcer.



[\(enlarge photo\)](#)

From left: Christopher Sutton, Irene Adjan, Joel Blum and Jack Lawson star in 'Golf: The Musical,' a show at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre that pokes gentle fun of golfers' idiosyncracies. Sutton shines in his impersonation of a revivalist minister and a 'Golf News Network' announcer.

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Adjan's pipes are as powerful as Tiger Woods' drives, particularly in *Great Lady Golfer*, the Turner-style number. She's also rib-tickling funny as a neglected wife sporting curlers in *My Husband is Playing Around*. She's less convincing as a sultry siren in an overlong gumshoe skit with Lawson.

Lawson and Blum's twosome as Bing Crosby and Bob Hope reunited on the heavenly links missed its mark as well. Though Lawson's Crosby was delightfully mellifluous, the comic timing misfired.

Despite these occasional excursions into the rough, the show merits a trip to Jupiter, particularly if you have a love-hate relationship with a little white ball. The show plays through Aug. 1 at 1001 E. Indiantown Road. For tickets, call 575-2223 or (800) 445-1666.

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