

How "Very Good Eddie" became a West Coast premiere at the Megaw!

"Very Good Eddie" is a Jerome Kern musical originally performed on Broadway around 1915/1916. At that time, it was considered very risqué.

In the 1970's, "Very Good Eddie" was first revived at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut before moving to Broadway. My dear colleague friend, Hal Shane, was in those productions. When I saw it on Broadway, I really liked it!

In 1981, when Syd was looking for a summer musical, I suggested "Very Good Eddie". She followed through and we ended up doing the West Coast premiere at the Megaw!

By that time, Hal was in "They're Playing My Song" - on Broadway. To get the original Jerome Kern choreography of "Very Good Eddie", I was in his dressingroom, which was several stories up from the stage, typical of old NY theatres. Hal'd perform on stage, run up the steps to his dressingroom, teach me the choreography and then run down in time for his next entrance. I wrote it all down and then updated everything to work at the Megaw and then the Mayfair.

I still have the excellent L.A. Times Dan Sullivan review framed and hanging on a wall in my house. Many friendships made during Very Good Eddie remain to this day!

Karen Souza