THE POPULAR "Swingtime Salute" aboard the battleship Wisconsin returns with a new look and a brassier sound.

By Teressa Amaza
The Virginian-Pilot

Lianne Marie Sibby sings before the Wisconsin's big guns while portraying Lauren Leigh in the '40s-style revue.

If you go
What: "Swingtime Salute, The USS Battleship Revue"
Where: On the deck of the Wisconsin

MOVIE REVIEW
KURT BURKE
HORSEGRAPHER Jen Jenkins sat 10 rows back in Nauticus Theater to watch rehearsals last week for her latest show, “Swingtime Salute, The USO Battleship Revue.”

The World War II-era variety show, which was set for its second summer on the deck of the battleship Wisconsin on the downtown Norfolk waterfront, provided a homecoming of sorts for Jenkins. As the performers sing in one of the show’s many upbeat songs, she has been off “to see the world” and has come back in the role she dreamed of while growing up here.

Since the former Governor’s School for the Arts dance student graduated in 1998, she has been dance captain for national and international tours of Broadway musicals. Lately, she’s moved up a notch to land jobs as the associate choreographer at top national theaters.

Here in Norfolk, she’s the one and only movement queen, having been recommended by last year’s “Swingtime” choreographer, who is busy on Broadway with the new “Annie” musical.

“This is a whole new show,” Jenkins said. “All new choreography and

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MoviE REVIEW
“NOW YOU SEE ME”

PROMISING PREMISE DELIVERS MAGIC

By Mal Vincent
The Virginian-Pilot

Movies about magic and magicians have an uphill battle from the first.
Sleight-of-hand illusion doesn’t work when you film it. We know all about special effects. Magic isn’t magic when it can get a second take or digital tweaking.

It would have been even easier for David Copperfield to make the Statue of Liberty disappear if it had been done on film.

Nonetheless, the premise of “Now You See Me” is a promising one. A magician act that calls itself The Four Horsemen robs banks to shower the stolen money on the audience. Even Robin Hood could not have been more generous. Predictably, the show is a big hit in Vegas, but it sends both the FBI and magic-coubters scurrying to disprove the show.

“Now You See Me” is so determinedly absurd that I feel guilty for enjoying it. Some movies are confusing. This one is totally illogical but in an audacious, defiant way. In scene after scene, the plotting is silly. It asks us to suspend disbelief to

See MAGIC, PAGE 3
NOW IT'S AN OFFICIAL USO SHOW

The story of a recent college graduate who moves into a shabby New York apartment. 8 p.m. at Little Theatre of Norfolk, 807 Clamont Ave. 627-8851. www.timonline.org.

Choreographer J. Kenton: This is a whole new show. All new choreography and a new set.

Another change for this year's "Swingingtime" is the setup. The previous concept was a radio show in Act 1 and a live on-deck review in Act 2, escorted by a Bob Hope-style comedian. This year, the entire 90-minute review is shaped as a single live show in summer 1944 on a ship in the South Pacific.

Also, instead of audiences facing the water and the starting gun as it rains over the Elizabeth River, patrons this year will look toward the ship and its mighty guns. The same women who portrayed the singing and dancing Browning Sisters (Lindsey Bure and Gabriella Gomez) and the starlet Louises (Leigh, Lianne Morris, and Debbie Stroh) return.

The male characters—an ensign, a singing sailor, and a band leader—are all new. Also the little “big band” has grown this year where six musicians. "We added two sax players," Mills said. "Now we can get a richer sound."

The new songs include "Watching the Moon." "I'm Going to See the Light," "Straighten Up and Fly Right," and "Sentimental Journey.

Like last year, all the performers, except one, are members of Achor Equity the labor union representing American actors and a mark of professionalism.

Praetor Boyd, who plays Richard Love, had a comic role earlier this year in the Virginia Stage Company’s production of the musical "Frog Knaves." He tapped and sang in that one, too.

Or should we say "loud?" Mullins called Boyd an old-time leader, like Bob Hope. Car Boyd, who is 27, relate to this.

Sure, he said, "It’s very rhythmically tapping. Hoofing, you can think of as dancing with your feet. Tap dancing is a lot more serious and is a disease, more class-like.

"Hoofing makes a lot of sound." That is, it’s extra loud.

Boyd’s never been a stand-up comic, but said, "I do it so much in my normal life, it’s natural.

His approach is to deliver a mildly risqué comic monologue once the show is on stage, then pick out a face in the audience and give him a line. If you say, I can’t believe I got away with that.

Boyd said he felt moved during their first rehearsal on the deck of the Wrangell, especially near the end of the show when the band leader sings "God Bless America."

"We’re all looking back at the flag waving in the wind. And that was the moment where everything came together.

That’s when he really felt, "I think it’s going to be perfect, because those for whom they served the country, because their name’s why we’re here. For those guys."

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