

original residents. Then follow them all into the ensuing centuries experiencing the flood, the ark, the animals, Egypt, slavery, the exodus and even the nativity. Then, in act two fast forward them all into present-day Manhattan at Christmas-time with many comic observations about the hazards of contemporary living with serious overtones about gay parenting, gay weddings and AIDS. With its full-frontal nudity, explicit dialogue, and unabashed over-hauling of the Bible, this show won't appeal to everyone. However, all others should find it to be extremely funny, well staged and very well performed. High praise for the small, expert cast headed by Henry David Clarke and Chris Arruda as Adam and Steve and Sandra Heffley and Helen McElwain as Jane and Mabel and also Richard Carey as both a flamboyantly comic Pharaoh and a frazzled Santa Claus. Commendations also for Scott Edmiston's sure direction and Susan Zeeman Rogers fine minimalist sets which effectively accommodate the play's many times and places. A provocative and highly amusing entertainment, now playing through June 24. **(My grade: 5)**

Dames At Sea Stage

Review by Norm Gross

Now completing a limited engagement at the Abbott Memorial Theatre in Waltham, Mass. is the Hovey Players production of "Dames at Sea." First presented with great success off-Broadway in 1968, it's a delightfully clever spoof of those splendid depression-era Dick Powell, Ruby Keeler musicals of the thirties like "Shipmates Forever" and "Forty Second Street ". This time it is presented with pleasantly nostalgic music by Jim Wise and grandly comic book and lyrics by George Haimsohn and Robin Miller. Naturally young and pretty "Ruby," from small-town America arrives in Manhattan, with only her tap-shoes, ready to conquer Broadway. Backstage she meets gifted, sailor and songwriter "Dick," whose tunes are ready for the "big time." Unfortunately, however, for many reasons, the show he's involved with must be performed at sea, instead, on the deck of a battleship. When "Mona," the headstrong and demanding leading lady, is unable to perform because of seasickness, Ruby is recruited at the last moment as her replacement and becomes Broadway's newest star! The small cast of six handle their roles very well with Ann McCoy and Dave Garison both fine as the handsome singing and dancing sweethearts with special notice for Linda Goetz as the amusingly egocentric and indisposed star. Unfortunately act one suffers from its distracting and unnecessarily dark and quite uninteresting backstage setting while act two is substantially improved by its varied and brightly painted sea-going scenery. **(My grade: 3)**

Not About Nightingales

Stage Review by Norm Gross

At the Boston University's Theatre is the "Theatre Works" production (an area premiere) of "Not About Nightingales." Written in 1938, by then