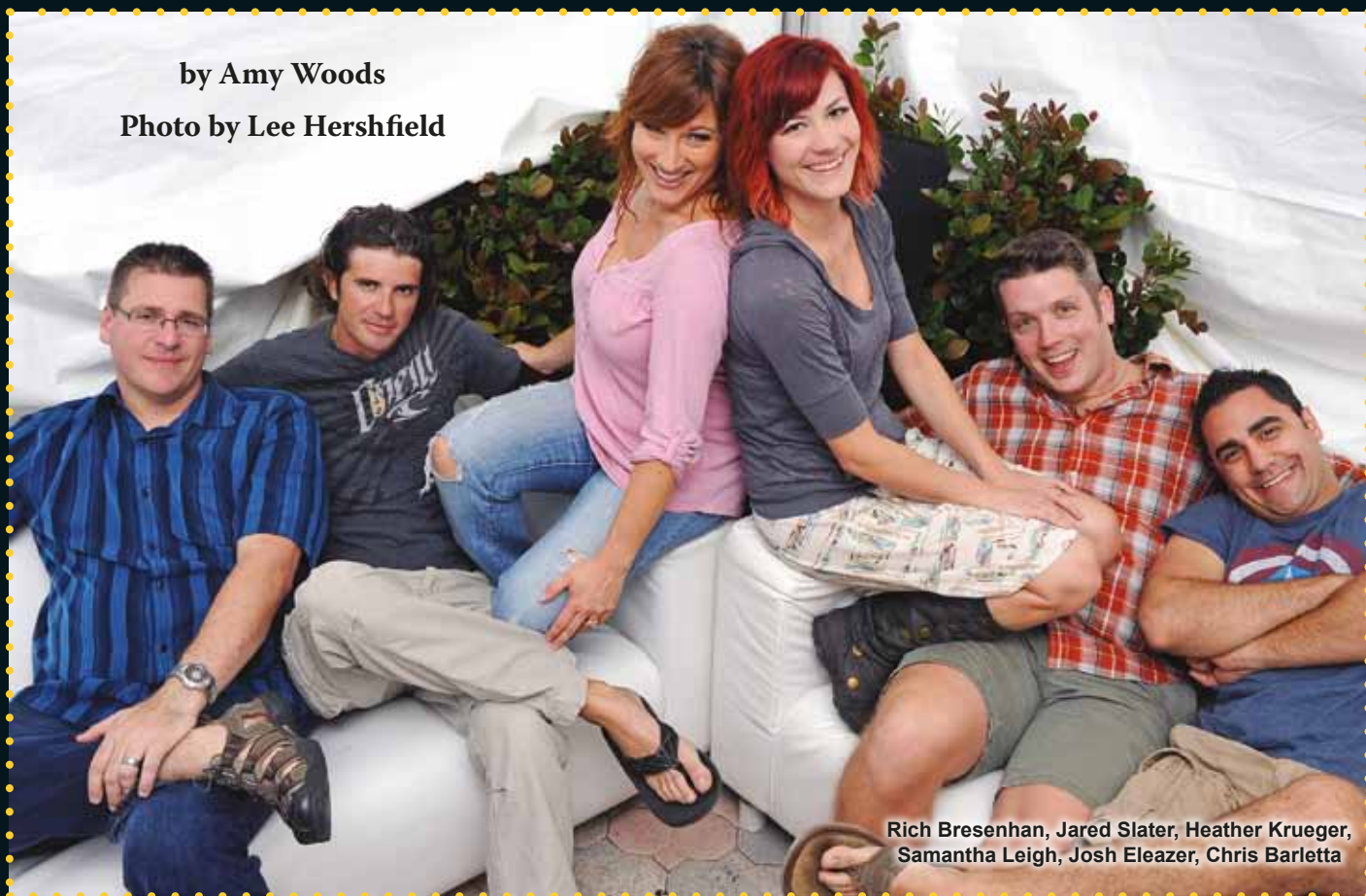


Let's Hang On! Steals the Show at

by Amy Woods

Photo by Lee Hershfield



Rich Bresenhan, Jared Slater, Heather Krueger, Samantha Leigh, Josh Eleazer, Chris Barletta

“Two cars, three girls, four guys – infinite possibilities.” Bob Gaudio, one of the original Four Seasons, delivered that cool line in the Broadway musical *Jersey Boys* during the introductory guitar riff of the hit song “My Boyfriend’s Back.”

Let’s Hang On!, a traveling band that pays tribute to Frankie Valli and the iconic doo-wop vocalists, modified the provocative message and turned it into the group’s tag line: “Four guys, two girls and a full band!”

The much-touted troupe of performers headlined the 10th annual Feast of Little Italy, a three-day Italian festival held November 2-4 in Jupiter’s Abacoa Town Center, and the flock of fans who gathered on the grass to see their show adored them.

“They were phenomenal,” said Jerry Somma, Feast of Little Italy’s president. “We got inundated with e-mails and phone calls on how much they loved them. We were really just blown away.”

Let’s Hang On! – billed as America’s No. 1 Frankie Valli trib-

ute show – brought the sound of the ‘60s to the stage during a 90-minute rock ‘n’ roll production that left the audience wanting more. Such snappy songs as “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” “Sherry” and “Walk Like a Man,” all of which topped the charts back in the day, energized the lawn-chair crowd during the festival’s biggest night.

“We always love bringing in new artists,” Somma said. “What we looked at was how talented were they, how authentic were they, how did they sound, how entertaining were they, and what we saw – we just thought they were phenomenal. They were so well-received; what a great tribute to a great Italian-American artist, Frankie Vallie.”

The Feast of Little Italy, named Best Italian Festival by the National Association of Italian Festivals, celebrates the art, music, food and cultural heritage of the old country. Activities included bocce ball, carnival games, vintner seminars and cooking demonstrations by local and national chefs.

“What the festival is ... what we’ve always classified it as, is we

This Year's Feast of Little Italy

Photos provided by Via Productions, Inc.



Slater, Eleazer and Barletta serenade the Feast of Little Italy crowd.

are sharing old traditions, and we are creating new memories,” Somma said. “It’s a three-generation event – grandparents, parents, children. Family is our foundation.”

The singers, dancers and musicians in *Let’s Hang On!* described their FOLI debut as an “oh-what-a-night” moment and said they can’t wait to return.

“We love outdoor festivals,” said Bill Norman, the show’s composer, arranger, musical director and guitarist. “We’d love to come back. Who doesn’t like Florida?”

The “four guys, two girls and a full band” hail from all over the United States and tour year-round. Later this month, they’ll appear at a performing arts center in Wisconsin, and after that, in Utah.

While their audience appeal undoubtedly arises from covers of a collection of chart-toppers – the quartet recorded 19 Top 10s and eight No. 1s in the course of its career – *Let’s Hang On!* also shines by showing off the vintage vinyl of the era. Heather Krueger, one of the “two girls,” brings a bit of Nancy Sinatra to the show, while Samantha Leigh delivers songs from *The Supremes* and hits by Petula Clark.

“We break up the boys,” said Krueger, the band’s chief choreographer. “Everybody says we’re a nice surprise when we take the stage.”

Her choreography includes audience participation – a key element of the act.

“We pick out cute old men,” Leigh said.

“And cute old ladies,” added Tennessee native Josh Eleazer, the falsetto behind the show-stopping “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You.”

Chris Barletta, Rich Bresenhan and Dustin Fisher round out the “four guys,” and each possesses a signature style of singing that Gaudio, who wrote most



Krueger and Leigh sport sparkly attire.

of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons’ songs, would envy. Barletta has appeared in more than 600 Actors’ Equity Association performances and teaches high school. Bresenhan started singing at the age of 4 and has won national and international awards for his harmonies. Fisher’s résumé includes stints at Disney World, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and Universal Studios’ Halloween Horror Nights.

Let’s Hang On! debuted in 2008, two years after the stage sensation scored four Tony Awards, including Best Musical. *Jersey Boys* continues to captivate crowds by sharing the story of the blue-collar bunch from Belleville, who started out singing under streetlights and ended up selling 175 million records. The national touring production of the Broadway musical plays at the Kravis Center through Jan. 6.

“I’ve always been a fan of Frankie Valli,” producer and drummer Bob Schubert said. “It’s definitely a tribute ... but it’s more like a show than a play. There’s other music from the era that’s represented. It’s timeless. Everyone of every age will know and enjoy it.” **PBG**

For more information on tour dates and show times visit www.letshangon.com.