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Inland Stage Features "The Great American Trailer Park Musical"

The Inland Stage Company features the Inland Valley premiere of "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" opening Sept. 29 at the Esplanade Art Center in San Jacinto.

"This show is joyful and unashamedly vulgar," said ISC Director Kristopher James. "It is a comic fable about women in a Florida trailer park and their no-account men."

When a stripper named Pippi moves into Armadillo Acres Trailer Park, on the run from her permanent marker-sniffin' crazy ex-boyfriend named Duke, all hell breaks loose.

"Without giving too much away, let's just say that it is an undeniably entertaining hullabaloo for anyone hankering for a rowdy good time," James said.

When James heard the title of the show, he was assuming that it would make simple fun of a particular group of people, but after reading the script and listening to the score, it was very evident that there was much more to this musical than the name assumes.

"This show has a big heart and just the right mixture of energy and silliness," James said. "The cast is having a lot of fun chewing on their white-cracker stereotypes, and the crew is enjoying just being a part of the rowdy wonderment we are creating. This production is truly something that I am very pleased to be part of and give my own personal touch."

"In addition to being a regional debut, I personally love the music and the plot is very sweet; while at the same time it's got this adult nature to the humor and situations that made it perfect for a date or group night out," said Artistic Director Jim Marbury.

Marbury will also be performing in the role of Norbert.

"I like Norbert," Marbury said. "He seems like a regular, working-class guy who's caught in a bit of slump that builds into a crisis. The way he goes about dealing with that crisis is where all the fun comes in for me. He doesn't mean any harm, but he just gets caught up in the whirlwind."

But Marbury originally chose the show because he thought it would appeal to the ISC audience.

“I think anyone who walks through our door will be completely entertained by the comedy and the amazing level of talent we have in the show,” Marbury said. “We’ve got a powerful ensemble that is really having the time of their lives – it’s very entertaining to be a part of – and we’re all looking forward to sharing that sense of fun with our audience.”

The cast, according to James, is “simply incredible.”

ISC audiences will recognize veterans Jim Marbury as Norbert, a husband by night and toll collector by day; Paola Cifuentes as Pickles, who is perpetually, hysterically pregnant; and Yvonne Flack as Lin, whose name comes from being born on a linoleum-covered kitchen floor.

At ISC, Cifuentes recently played Juliet in “Romeo and Juliet” as well as Janet in “Rocky Horror Picture Show” two years in a row. Flack recently performed as Hamlet in “The Suffragette Hamlet” and Stella in “A Streetcar Named Desire.” And aside from being Artistic Director, Marbury is a regular director and actor with ISC.



Everyone in Cast

The cast also includes Janine Wills, who is back after a long absence from the company and brings a great amount of heart to her agoraphobic character, Jeannie.

“We also have a couple of newcomers to our company,” James said. “Barbara Chiafalo lends not only her beautiful and big voice to her character, Pippi, but is also our very own vocal coach. Brenda Tuita chews up the scenery with her rambunctious portrayal of Betty, and Robert White delivers a knock-out performance as Duke, Pippi’s crazy, marker-sniffin’ ex-boyfriend.”

James thinks the public will expect one thing, and get another. “With a name like ‘The Great American Trailer Park Musical’ you don’t expect a big disco dance number or a ballet, but with this amazing script, and all the wonderful songs, you get both...well, you get just a little bit of everything,” James said. “If you are intent on having a darn good time, then come to see show. You can’t go wrong with this one. It has adultery, strippers, murderous ex-boyfriends, Costco, and the Ice Capades... who could ask for anything more?”

The show runs 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 29 through Oct. 9.

Tickets for the show are \$15 for general admission, and \$12 for students, seniors and military. Thursday performances are “Pay What You Can,” with a \$5 suggested donation. And on Saturdays there are Rush Tickets for \$7, 10 minutes before the show, if seats are available.

ISC also offers group rates and season tickets.

The Esplanade Art Center is located at 2181 W. Esplanade Ave., San Jacinto, Ca.

Visit www.inlandstage.org for details.



Trailer Girls