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Inland Stage Features “The Crucible”

The Inland Stage Company presents the historical dramedy “The Crucible,” opening Nov. 10 at the Esplanade Art Center.

“The Crucible is an important play,” said ISC Artistic Director Jim Marbury. “It reminds us that many of the issues with which we struggle are part of the human condition: Betrayal, deception, oppression – these are all part of the human experience. This play has a lot to say about our society today, and where we might very well be headed in the near future.”

Marbury directed a production of “The Crucible” in 2007.

“For me, as the director, it was important to very carefully build the ensemble around the three characters that take direct action in the plot – John and Elizabeth Proctor, and Abigail Williams, the girl that betrays the town,” Marbury said. “Darcie accomplished this and, from what I’ve seen in rehearsal, has elicited some of the strongest and dynamic performances I’ve ever witnessed. It’s exciting to see this play in revival at Inland Stage, and a real treat for our audience.

According to Production Director Darcie Flansburg, the production quality is thanks to the great cast.

“As a director I like to do a lot of table work to get the actors more in tune with the character’s emotions,” Flansburg said. “This cast not only absorbed their own characters’ emotions, but also quickly developed chemistry that makes the audience feel that they are viewing very intimate moments.”

The cast includes many veteran ISC actors and several new actors to the stage.

John Leon is performing the role of John Proctor.

“I love his bottled up passion,” Leon said. “The struggle that each hot-blooded man has with his physical and carnal self that when suppressed explodes into a rush of unpredictable emotion that in him was before unseen and buried deep within. Indiscretion of his past haunts his every motion, It seems to be with in every word spoken & in every laboring task. It is as if in each crop sown is a peace of his terrible desire for reckoning himself.”

Leon has previously played such roles as Mercutio in “Romeo and Juliet” and Gerald in “The Suffragette Hamlet” at ISC.

Marbury is performing the role of Judge Danforth.

“Danforth is a difficult role, but very fun to play. His place in the action of the play seems ominous, as it is his judgment that our main characters endure,” Marbury said. “I try not to give too much away about the underpinnings of my character, but many would be surprised by the truth of this man’s inner life. He is very mysterious and funny, but extremely sharp. Danforth is engaged in a battle for civil order, and in this, ironically, he loses his human principles.”

Paola Cifuentes will perform the role of Abigail Williams.

“I’ve never played the villain before and I’m enjoying it thoroughly,” Cifuentes said. “I enjoy how her character changes in just one scene, from being the good girl, to how she really is, and then very flirty. Towards the end of the play people think she is crazy but I think that it is her truth.”

Paola has previously played such roles as Janet in “The Rocky Horror Show” and Juliet in “Romeo and Juliet” at ISC as well as being part of ISC’s touring production of “The Great American Trailer Park Musical” in the role of Pickles.



“The power in this production lies in its fear,” Leon said. “Fear of what is to us that which is thought to be a comfort, a certainty: God, Christ, the church. We see the fracturing of faith in a community that is built on a foundation of ‘Do that which is good and no harm shall come to thee.’ The village believes and gives a foundation to fear, and what that fear does is show the true face of evil and the havoc it brings.”

The show runs 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sundays, Nov. 10 through 20.

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.