
PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 16, 2009

Contact: Megan Pugh, Director of Marketing & Public Relations, 607-272-0403; megan@kitchentheatre.org

TICKETS: \$11-youth; \$22-adult; CALL 607-273-4497; VISIT Ticket Center Ithaca, 171 The Commons, Ithaca, NY; or CLICK www.kitchentheatre.org and buy online!

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscription order forms available at KTC Administrative office, 116 N. Cayuga St, Ithaca, by calling 607-272-0403, or at www.kitchentheatre.org. Subscribers enjoy ticket exchange privileges and premiere seating.

GROUP RATES: Discounts are available when you come with a group. For details, call 607-272-0403.

WEBSITE: For more information on the Kitchen Theatre Company, visit www.kitchentheatre.org.

Photos available upon request.

PRECIOUS NONSENSE returns to the Kitchen Theatre stage

Ithaca, NY: It's winter in upstate New York, so we are all in need of some music and laughter. The perfect thing to warm us up on these cold, dark days is the Kitchen Theatre Company's encore production of PRECIOUS NONSENSE, running from January 13 through February 7. Using the much-loved melodies and lyrics of Gilbert & Sullivan as a start, Rachel Lampert has fashioned a play so full of plot twists and turns, laughs, and romance that you may think Gilbert and Sullivan themselves rose from the dead to create it. Mistaken identities, unexpressed love, and madcap mayhem combine in this screwball comedy about finding and falling in love. And you can see this musical set in the 1930s at today's "recession price" - every seat for every performance is just 22 dollars for adults and 11 dollars for youth!

Set in 1938, PRECIOUS NONSENSE introduces us to a ramshackle touring company, the Carter Family Savoyards. The founders and guiding forces of the company are the bombastic RDC Carter and his long-suffering but equally strong-willed wife Angelina. After years of touring, they long to retire and pass on the leadership of the company to their son, Frederic, who has up to now shown no interest in anything except getting away from his parents and their touring life as soon as he can. The Carter Family Savoyards also includes endearing ingénue Josephine, stage manager and philosopher, Pete, and the enigmatic music director, Herbie. Desperate to run away and join the theater is the star-struck Samuel and the mysterious Mack, who both arrive on the scene.

The plot of PRECIOUS NONSENSE mirrors the plot of Gilbert and Sullivan's classic THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE. In PENZANCE, Frederic wants to leave the pirates on his 21st birthday. In PRECIOUS NONSENSE, Frederic expects to be set free from his obligation to remain with his parents' theater company on his upcoming birthday. But when the troupe arrives at the Blue Barn Theatrical Palace in the dead of winter, the theater manager insists that they do a full-length *Pirates of Penzance*. New cast members are recruited, and with a skeleton cast of seven, and the "show-must-go-on" banner on high, the onstage/backstage mayhem begins.

Written by Kitchen Theatre Company Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert, and directed by NYC-based director, Margaret Perry, PRECIOUS NONSENSE embraces the energy and romance of Gilbert & Sullivan. The members of the Carter Family Savoyards are loosely based on the archetypes found in the screwball film comedies of the 1930s. "I set the play in 1938 when America was struggling out of the Depression and war in Europe had begun - a time that mirrors some of our current challenges. And like the Hollywood movies of that time, PRECIOUS NONSENSE is a welcome escape," says Lampert.

Director Margaret Perry is known for many successful productions with KTC, including A MARRIAGE MINUET, CLEAN ALTERNATIVES, STRANGERHORSE, THE TWO OF YOU and this season's

bold • intimate • engaging
KITCHEN
theatre company

Artistic Director, Rachel Lampert

Office (607) 272-0403
Fax (607) 273-4816
Tickets (607) 273-4497
www.kitchentheatre.org

Historic Clinton House, 116 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

ENTERTAINER'S EULOGY and HO! She has collaborated previously with playwright Lampert, directing the 2009 revival of TONY & THE SOPRANO and the 2008 summer remounting of THE SOUP COMES LAST.

The cast includes: Erica Steinhagen (BED NO BREAKFAST, TONY & THE SOPRANO, WE WON'T PAY! among others) recreating her role as the well-meaning but ditzy Josephine. Jesse Bush (AEA) last seen at the Kitchen in TONY & THE SOPRANO and THE GLASS MENAGERIE, will play Frederic. Remembered as "Greta-Grrr" in BED NO BREAKFAST, Jessica Carr returns as Mack. Jake Paque, seen last year in ARCHEAEOLOGY, is coming up from NYC to join the cast as Pete. Newcomer Kurt Merrill, an Ithaca College freshman will play the shy but determined Samuel. Perri LoPinto, long-time Ithaca theater performer, returns to the Kitchen to play Angelina. And AEA NY-based Broadway veteran (CATS, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF and more) Joel Robertson completes the singing cast. Richard Montgomery plays Herbie, the music director in the play and for the production.

Original set design by Hannah Davis, Lisa Boquist returns as costume designer and lighting designer is Daniel Hall. LaShawn Keyser is the stage manager.

In the intimate 73-seat Kitchen Theatre space, where singing is almost palpable, PRECIOUS NONSENSE will ring out with Sullivan's long-loved melodies, Gilbert's unforgettable lyrics and Lampert's antics with both. So, is there a recently discovered, heretofore unknown musical operetta by Gilbert & Sullivan? No! We've searched the trunks and still find only 14 operettas, but now is the time to add a new story to this timeless music. "Nonsense, yes, perhaps - but oh, what precious nonsense!" Great for ages 8 and up.

PRECIOUS NONSENSE is sponsored by GATEWAY COMMONS. Media partners for the 2009-10 season are Cayuga Radio Group, Ithaca Journal, Ithaca Times, Finger Lakes Public Radio: WEOS, the Syracuse New Times and WSKG Radio.

Performance Dates:

Wed., January 13, 2010 at 7:30pm
Thurs., January 14, 2010 at 7:30pm
Fri., January 15, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sat., January 16, 2010 at 3:00pm
Sat., January 16, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sun., January 17, 2010 at 4:00pm
Wed., January 20, 2010 at 7:30pm
Thurs., January 21, 2010 at 7:30pm
Fri., January 22, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sat., January 23, 2010 at 3:00pm
Sat., January 23, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sun., January 24, 2010 at 4:00pm

Wed., January 27, 2010 at 7:30pm
Thurs., January 28, 2010 at 7:30pm
Fri., January 29, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sat., January 30, 2010 at 3:00pm
Sat., January 30, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sun., January 31, 2010 at 4:00pm
Wed., February 3, 2010 at 7:30pm
Thurs., February 4, 2010 at 7:30pm
Fri., February 5, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sat., February 6, 2010 at 3:00pm
Sat., February 6, 2010 at 8:00pm
Sun., February 7, 2010 at 4:00pm (closing)

Bold, intimate, engaging...Kitchen Theatre Company (KTC), now in its 19th season, is downtown Ithaca's critically acclaimed and nationally recognized year-round professional theatre with four performance series (Main Stage, Family Fare, Kitchen Counter Culture, Kitchen Sink). KTC is the first not-for-profit recipient of the David R. Strong Memorial "Small Business of the Year" Award from the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce. KTC provides an engaging mix of regional and world premiere plays and musicals to Central NY in an intimate 73-seat theatre that encourages a bold relationship between audience and actor. The theatre is located in the historic Clinton House, a renovated hotel in Downtown Ithaca, New York. Ithaca is located on the southern tip of Cayuga Lake in central New York. Kitchen Theatre Company receives public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency and the Tompkins County Room Occupancy Tax Fund. For the 2009-10 Season the Kitchen Theatre Company also receives support from the Shubert Foundation.