



Thursday, June 16, 2011 SANTA CRUZ, CA | Now: 53°F | High: 68°F | Low: 49°F | 5-Day Forecast

Login | Register | E-Edition
Subscriber Services | Mobile Edition

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

home news business sports entertainment opinion obits blogs community Weekly Ad contact us jobs cars homes classifieds print ads

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize

Share the News
Recommend
Tweet 4
Sentinel on Facebook

Most Viewed RSS

Most E-Mailed

(From the last 12 hours)

1. Cops and Courts: June 16, 2011: Santa Cruz man jailed for running...
2. CHP: Car in fatal hit-and-run found
3. PG&E to start widespread installation of SmartMeters in Santa Cruz...
4. Man who ran over toddler with bike in Santa Cruz sentenced
5. Car flipped over on Highway 1
6. Dogs downtown: Debate coming up as merchants board urges city to OK...
7. Lawsuit claims Santa Cruz City Schools and city at fault in girl's...
8. Cops and Courts: June 15, 2011: Sorokin murder trial delayed
9. Dogs downtown: Debate coming up as merchants board urges city to OK...

Related Content

- Juneteenth celebration comes to SC
- The double shot of The Civil Wars
- Celeb Pix: Ke\$ha hangs on James Franco's every word
- Jazz icon Velveteen Brown gets a fond farewell from friends and admirers
- Jazz icon Velveteen Brown gets a fond farewell from friends and admirers
- Falling in love again: Woody Allen scores a late-career triumph by romancing the past in 'Midnight in Paris'
- Wallace Baine: A distinctive and underappreciated political voice is stilled
- More than 40 years after his death, Jimi Hendrix is still remembered as a great

Cabrillo Stage marks its 30th year with a showstopping new season, highlighted by inspired-by-the-movies hits 'The Full Monty' and 'Hairspray'

By WALLACE BAINE

Posted: 06/16/2011 01:30:31 AM PDT

If you're a lover of top-flight musical theater, and you can't find worthwhile live entertainment this summer in Santa Cruz County, well, it's your own fault.

Certainly, the folks at Cabrillo Stage, the professional music theater group that sets up house at Cabrillo College each summer, are living up to their end of the bargain.

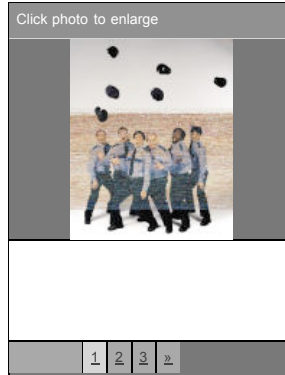
To mark its 30th year entertaining the masses, Cabrillo Stage is presenting three new productions, including two grand showstoppers. The first of those showstoppers is "The Full Monty," Terrence McNally's popular comedy based on the famous British film.

"Monty" begins the big Cabrillo Stage summer on June 24. It's followed by the two-person one-act musical revue "The Last Five Years," an ingenious song cycle between a couple as they fall in and out of love, opening July 8. And, finally, the summer reaches a crescendo with the high-energy, dance-heavy "Hairspray," winner of eight Tony Awards, which, like "The Full Monty," is inspired by the film of the same name. "Hairspray" opens July 22.

What's more, in commemoration of that big round-numbered anniversary, the company is welcoming back its founding artistic director, the legendary Lile Cruse to lead the band for "Hairspray." Cruse will team up with another Cabrillo Stage veteran, director Janie Scott. The two are responsible for many of the company's most well-remembered productions, from "Peter Pan" to "Some Like it Hot."

"Lile was one of my mentors," said

Advertisement



Related

Weekend Guide, June 16-19 Jun 16:

- Juneteenth celebration comes to SC
- The double shot of The Civil Wars
- Mary McCaslin: Long live the Uke
- Rebirth of a ska band: the return of Slow Gherkin
- Terrence Malick's 'Tree of Life' is bewitching but frustrating

current artistic director Jon Nordgren. "I've known him forever and, as far as him coming back goes, I had only one condition: that he put me in the band."

The season kicks off with "The Full Monty," which shot to pop-culture fame following the release of the 1997 indie film. The musical, which debuted in San Diego in 2000 and played on Broadway for two years, retains much of the film's plot -- suddenly unemployed working-class guys decide to become strippers to earn back a bit of attention from their wives as well as self-respect.

What's different is the story's orientation -- it's been Americanized with the men being steel workers from Buffalo -- and the addition of music, featuring such songs as "It's a Woman's World," "Michael Jordan's Ball" and "Let it Go."

KUMON
MATH. READING. SUCCESS.

Click for More Info

helping
move them
to the head
of the class.

Kumon —
An Academic
Enrichment Program
Preschool Through
12th Grade



guitarist, and a sweet-natured older brother

"The show is inherently funny," said "Monty" director Dustin Leonard. "It's one of those shows that can be a lot of things. For instance, it can be a circus of slapstick on stage. That's not where I'm going with it. I'm focusing on the situations and the characters and the challenges they face, with a focus on the underlying insecurities of the men. But it's still very funny. You just can't get away from the humor."

You also can't get away from the nudity. As every savvy pop-culture observer has known for years, the play's title is a British slang-ism for going fully nude. But Leonard is quick to add that the nudity in "The Full Monty" is in no way sexualized. It's more a compelling symbol for the characters' confronting their fears and coming to terms with their true selves.

"There's nudity and there's sexuality, but those are totally different animals," said Leonard. "The nudity is not meant to be sexual or arousing at all. It's about men looking at themselves in a freeing way. Pieces like this allow us to hold up a mirror to our ideas about who we are."

"It's definitely for mature audiences," said Nordgren of "Monty." "People think that a young audience might be more attracted to it, and they couldn't imagine older audiences wanting to see this. Older folks are more enlightened about these things than you think. I'm not worried about people complaining. People have complained about every show we've done. You should have heard them about Cabaret' last year's production."

Indeed, the characters of "The Full Monty" are not the chiseled bodies of sexualized daydreams. They come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, many of which have been deemed something less than attractive in contemporary culture. One of the characters is typically played by a demonstrably overweight actor to bring out the show's body-acceptance themes.

"These are guys everybody can identify with," said Leonard. "And they're wrestling with the questions that a lot of men are dealing with. Am I a good husband? Am I a good father? Am I still attractive?' I love pulling that out of the show."

Being staged later in the summer, "The Last Five Years" is a show focused on the pitfalls of modern romance. It features Andrew Ceglio and Ariel Buck, who were both involved in the Cabrillo Stage production of "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," the last two years. Ceglio's role finds him singing songs about the beginning of an exciting relationship while his female counterpart sings about the relationship in reverse, with the songs about the breakup first.

"Hairspray," based on the famous movie by John Waters, is a huge crowd-pleaser that focuses on the famously rotund heroine Tracy Turnblad and her efforts to integrate the 1960s-era TV show on which she becomes a dance champion. The show was performed more than 2,500 times on Broadway.

Cabrillo Stage also announced that it will have a new holiday production called "Plaid Tidings" in December, a spin-off of the popular musical "Forever Plaid." This ambitious new season comes on the heels of severe cutbacks at Cabrillo College, which provides a small fraction of Cabrillo Stage's operating budget plus, more importantly, the world-class facility at the Crocker Theater and other valuable in-kind considerations.


"It's hard to talk about because the decisions have not been made," said Nordgren of the precarious state of the college's support for Cabrillo Stage. "We don't want to lose anything of what we have. But I'm confident we'll continue on."


[Return to Top](#)


IF YOU GO


'the full monty'
 presented by: Cabrillo Stage
 directed by: Dustin Leonard
 when: Opening June 24. Playing Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Through Aug. 14.
 where: The Crocker Theater, on the campus of Cabrillo College
 Cost: \$16 to \$28 adult; \$16 to \$30 seniors; \$16 to \$26 kids 6 to 12
 details:
www.cabrillostage.com

The Sentinel is using Facebook for your feedback and commenting on this page.
[See our commenting policy.](#)

 **Recommend**  Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



 Post to Facebook Posting as Jana Marcus ([Change](#))

 Facebook social plugin