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○ 33RD SEASON | ○ MAY | ○ 2010

Lyric *notes*

REGINA LYRIC MUSICAL THEATRE
WWW.REGINALYRIC.COM

Gypsy runs May 26-30

Lyric's production of *Gypsy* is coming up fast, opening May 26 and running through May 30 at the University Theatre in the Riddell Centre.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Margaret Anne Hodges will give a pre-show talk half an hour before each performance in the lobby.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students, and are available at Bach & Beyond in the Golden Mile Centre (cheque or cash only) or online at www.reginalyric.com (PayPal or credit card only).

The show is directed by Robert Ursan, with Jane Ursan providing musical direction.

Donna Trainor stars as Mama Rose, with Jeff Tonita in the lead male role of Herbie, Madison De Walt as Louise, Emily Ready

as June, Charisma Taylor as Baby Louise and Jaimee Leggett as Baby June.

Other members of the cast include Aliah Nelson as Edna and Renee, Alice Willett as Balloon Girl, Aubree Erickson as Electra, Ben DeWalt as Kansas (Angie), Bougeron-Cochon and Pastey, Ben Korol as Chicago and Phil, David Hopkinson as Uncle Jocko, Kringelein and Cigar, Deacon Yathon as L.A., Stagehand, Weber and Bougeron-Cochon, Jamie Lemmerick as Mazeppa and Janelle Peters as Thelma.

Jessica Scheuer plays Tessie Tura, with Judith Bjorndahl as Dolores, Madison Wagner-Powers as Agnes (Amanda), Mayson Sonntag as a News Boy, Mason Sliva as a News Boy, Michael Maslany as a News Boy, Nikki Poncsak as Marjorie May and Waitress, Norma Lemmerick as Miss

(cont'd on Page 2...)

GYPSEY
Book by Arthur Laurents
Music by Jules Styne
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee

Directed by Robert Ursan
Musical Director Jane Ursan
May 26-30, 2010
University Theatre, Riddell Centre
University of Regina
7:30 p.m. Wed., Thurs.
8 p.m. Fri., Sat., 2 p.m. Sun.
Pre-show talk in lobby
one-half hour before curtain

Featuring
Donna Trainor as Mama Rose
Jeff Tonita as Herbie
Madison DeWalt as Louise
Emily Ready as June

Adults \$25
Students \$15
Bach & Beyond, Golden Mile Centre
(cash or cheque only)
Online at reginalyric.com
(PayPal or credit card)

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**We'll Meet Again
November 2004**

LYRIC NOTES

Editor: Edward Willett

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A Q&A with *Gypsy* director Robert Ursan

We believe Lyric's production of *Gypsy* is a Regina premiere—maybe even a first in Saskatchewan. Why hasn't anyone mounted the show, do you think?

Even though *Gypsy* has a very well-known collection of songs in its score, it's a hard musical to cast. This show requires a cast whose ages range from single digits to almost triple—lots of singing and dancing for the younger members of the cast and several large and challenging dramatic roles to fill. And the demands of the lead role of Mama Rose are tremendous.

The character of Rose has been played by some of Broadway's greatest female divas. How do you interpret the character? Why is she so hard on her kids?

The role of Rose is kind of hard to swallow for some people. Stage parents are living vicariously through their children. The behaviour of stage parents toward their children can seem incredibly cruel to outside eyes. In Rose's case everything is about the fulfillment of dreams in which Rose has so much belief. These God-given dreams seem to grant Rose behavioural *carte blanche* in the pursuit of stardom for one of her children. In fact, the first thing you hear in the show is the trumpet playing the melody associated with "I had a dream."



Robert Ursan, Director

"The score is so exciting and the performances are so touching that I can't imagine someone not wanting to see this show again and again."

*You've worked with Donna Trainor and Jeff Tonita many times. What do they bring to the lead roles in *Gypsy*?*

Working with Donna and Jeff is nothing but joy and laughter. I first worked with Jeff 17 years ago and with Donna 15 years ago. These are two people in whom I have nothing but confidence. They bring beautiful voices and acting panache to whatever they do.

Can you tell us more about the children you've cast for the show? Are they all stage veterans or do you have some newcomers? Do they have to have a dance background?

It's great to work with the kids in this show. Some have tons of dance background, and some, even at their tender ages, have a great deal of stage experience. The audience is going to love them. It's been a great deal of fun for me to stage all of their dances.

Are you working with a choreographer? Is there much dancing?

Asked and answered, Your Honour.

The three aging strippers are fun roles. Can you tell us about the women you have cast for these parts?

It's probably best not to call them ageing strippers! "Broken-down" is a more apt description. None of the three are old—it doesn't really specify in the script that they are, just that they perform in a gone-to-seed burlesque house. It merely indicates bad luck, bad judgment and bad career choices. These are three tough broads and Jamie, Aubree and Jessica are doing wonderfully.

Is set important in this show? Is lighting important in the show?

Because this show is about the theatre, the set, built by Gerry Weir, is hyper-theatrical. Everything is two-dimensionally flat and, like theatre, fake: at least so long as Rose and her dreams are in charge. Everything is painted, by Lanaya Chartier, onto flats and rolling platforms. Some reality creeps in near the end as Louise (*Gypsy*) asserts herself and creates a life of her own. And we're lucky enough to have a marvelous young designer, Melanie Rogowski, from the University working on the lighting as a graduating project for her degree.

*Does *Gypsy* have a message for the audience? How will we feel when we leave the theatre?*

It's hard to say that there's a moral to all this. This is based on the real-life story of someone who was famous for being famous. But the score is so exciting and the performances are so touching that I can't imagine someone not wanting to see this show again and again.

Anything you'd like to add?

One other thing to mention would be the great work of Joan Ziffle (Producer) and Gillian Barker (Stage Manager)—they're taking great care of me and the cast and deserve a huge amount of praise for their work.

...*Gypsy*, continued

(...cont'd from Page 1)

Cratchit, Owen Ricker as Pop and Mr. Goldstone, Thomas Hines as Tulsa, Victor Salazar as News Boy, and Zane Buchanan as Yonkers and George.

Joan Ziffle is Production Manager, Gillian Barker is Stage Manager, Donna Rumpel and Marie McCracken are in charge of costumes, Gerry Weir built the set, Lanaya Chartier is decorating the set, and Melanie Rogowski is lighting designer.

Orchestra members include Jane Ursan, who in addition to directing plays the flute, William Sgrazzutti on piano, Danny Jones on acoustic bass, Jeremy Buzash on violin, Lindsay Hale on percussion, and Miles Newman on trumpet.

This is the first-ever Regina (and possibly Saskatchewan) production of *Gypsy*, the show many critics consider the greatest musical ever written. Don't miss it!

Behind the scenes on *Gypsy*

A lighting designer and stage manager make their Lyric debuts



Lighting Director Melanie Rogowski

This is Melanie Rogowski's first time working with Regina Lyric Musical Theatre and is her graduating lighting practicum for her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Stage Management and Technical Theatre through the University of Regina.

A stage manager by trade, Melanie has been working in southern Saskatchewan for the past three years.

Her Moose Jaw Cultural Centre stage-management credits include *The Drawer Boy*, *The Kitchen Witches*, *The Medicine Line*, *River Street: A Musical*, *Mending Fences* and *Maggie's Getting Married*.

Live Out Loud Theatre stage management credits include *Ain't We Got Fun!* *A River Street Review*.

University of Regina stage management credits include *Bonjour, La, Bonjour*.

Melanie is currently the Chair of Operations for Moose Jaw's newest theatre company, Prairie Stage Theatre. (Check them out at www.prairiestage.ca.)

Melanie would like to thank Rob and the entire cast and crew of *Gypsy* for their hard work and continued dedication to theatre in Regina.



Stage Manager Gillian Barker

Gillian Barker is *so* excited to be stage managing her first show with Regina Lyric Musical Theatre.

Gillian is going into her third year at the University of Regina, where she is pursuing a degree in Stage Management and Technical Theatre.

She has had the great fortune of assistant-stage-managing several shows at the university, including *Bonjour, La, Bonjour*, the world premiere of Regina playwright Daniel Macdonald's *Radiant Boy*, and, most recently, *Medea*.

Gillian has been involved in

several other shows at university, and loves what she is doing!

Gillian thanks all of the cast and crew for the many, many emails, and Rob and Joan "for making this experience so rewarding and fun!"



Audition dates for Lyric's 2010-11 season: be there or be square!

Regina Lyric Musical Theatre is pleased to announce its audition dates for the 2010-2011 season...and, not coincidentally, two of its three shows for the up coming season.

Fall 2010

Looking for fun and feelin' groovy? Then you'll want to audition for Lyric's fall show.

Created and directed by Ryan Hicks, this revue of '60s folk favorites will run November 3,



4, 5, 6 and 7 at the Shumiatcher Theatre, Mackenzie Art Gallery. Auditions will be held Thurs-

day, September 2, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Lakeview United Church.

Brunch 2011

Continuing the '60s flashback, Lyric's musical brunch in February will be a revue of musical theatre hits from that decade, created and directed by Jane Ursan.

The brunch runs February 6 and 13, 2011, and auditions will be held Thursday, December 2,

from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Lakeview United Church.

Spring 2011

Finally, the spring show will be...well, it hasn't been announced yet. But auditions have!

Come out Thursday, February 17, 2011, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Lakeview United Church.



The cast of Lyric's 2010 musical fundraising brunch, I ♥ Broadway, which featured Broadway's greatest love songs.

Directed by Jane Ursan (front row, right) the show ran February 7 and 14 in the Regency Ballroom of the Hotel Saskatchewan Radisson Plaza.

Photo by Brian Cobbledick

Love musical theatre?

Lyric relies on capable and enthusiastic people to serve on the board of directors. It's a great opportunity to learn about production management and to work closely with a team of people who love musical theatre.

If you're interested in serving on the board, contact Carolyn Speirs at nandc@sasktel.net or 525-5342.

