



Stage Write

The Newsletter of **ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE**

Volume 18, Number 1

July 2008

“Shivaree” – An unusual and touching love story

By Teri Brown

A hemophiliac and his mamma... a Southern belly dancer...a drug-pushing ice cream man...and a clubfooted prostitute...Just your ordinary love story.

OnStage Playhouse announces the opening of its new season with *Shivaree* by William Mastrosimone. This romantic and touching story about a young hemophiliac searching for love is directed by OnStage Playhouse's Artistic Director, Teri Brown, and runs July 11 through August 9, 2008.

A wonderfully tender play by the acclaimed author of *Extremities* and *The Woolgatherer*, *Shivaree* tells the story of a young hemophiliac named Chandler who has been kept, of necessity, by his cab driver mother in a very sheltered sort of existence.

Highly intelligent, but supremely naïve about the ways of the world, Chandler is desperate for contact with the outside world. He doesn't know what to do about his craving for love until he meets Shivaree, a neighbor who supports herself as an itinerant belly dancer. She is a true original, and before too long the delightful Shivaree and the innocent Chandler are in love, much to the consternation of Chandler's mother, Mary.

Chandler must choose whether to remain in the safe protection of his hermetic world or choose love and finally venture outside. *Shivaree* is an honest and funny look at courage, protective love, and our need to both have it and escape from it.

Brandon Alexander, last seen at OnStage Playhouse in *Bleacher Bums*, will portray the lovesick Chandler. The supporting cast includes Lizzie Mander as Mary, Christina Christianson as Laura,

and Michael Dean Grulli as Scagg. Appearing in the title role of *Shivaree* will be Kali Kirk, an accomplished newcomer to OnStage Playhouse.

Ticket prices are \$15.00 general admission, \$13.00 students/seniors/military. Group rates are available by contacting Betsy Keller via the theatre contact information. Curtain times are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm. This production is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

On opening night (July 11) there will be pre-show belly dancing entertainment performed by the show's choreographer, Dawn Marie Himlin. Stay after the show and enjoy food and drinks with the cast and crew.

For reservations or additional information, please call OnStage Playhouse's box office at 619-422-RSVP (7787) or visit our website: www.onstageplayhouse.org.



Brandon Alexander as Chandler and Kali Kirk as Shivaree.

- photo by Adriana Zuniga

All six OnStage shows for 2007-08 receive County nominations

The nominations for the Associated Community Theatres of San Diego have been announced and all six OnStage Playhouse shows were among the nominees.

Leading the way with 11 nominations was our musical, *Groucho: A Life in Revue*. "Groucho" received nominations for Production of a Musical, Direction of a Musical, Lead Actor in a Musical (Charley Miller), Actor Major Support in a Musical (Michael Dean Grulli and Jarrod Weintraub), Actress Major Support in a Musical (Rebecca Seubert), Set Design, Lighting Design, Sound Design, Costume Design, and Choreographer.

Not far behind with nine nominations was the family drama *Ordinary People*. Drama acting nominees are Michael Dean Grulli (lead actor), Sharon Lawson (actress major support), Peter Frankland and Thomas McCaverly (actor major support), and Nikki Hagemeyer (actress minor support). "Ordinary" also received technical nomination for sound and lighting design.

All three dramas (*Ordinary People*, *How I Learned to Drive*, and *The Night of the Iguana*) received nominations for production and direction. Acting nominations for "Iguana" went to Ed Eigner (actor major support), Kelly Wood and Ruth Eigner (actress minor support), and Michael Dean Grulli (actor minor support).

Both of OnStage's comedies featured ensemble casts this year, and all actors were nominated. Brian Evans, Desmond Hassing, and Nathan Plummer were nominated for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and Brandon Cano-Errecart, Carter, Angie Doren, Melanie Haag, Stephen McLaughlin, Nathan Dean Snyder, James P. Tarbert, Connie Terwilliger, Danielle Trimble, and Jerry Young were nominated for *Bleacher Bums*, which also garnered a nomination for sound design.

In addition, OnStage was nominated for technical effects in *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Night of the Iguana*, and *Bleacher Bums*.

The coveted awards, "Aubreys," will be handed out at ACT's Annual Awards and Celebration Banquet on July 27. For ticket information, please leave a message on the theatre phone or email Bob Christiansen at bobchristiansen@bigfoot.com.

This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the volunteer efforts of Bob Christiansen, Teri Brown, Lynne Batchelor, and Bruce Wilde.

Thank you!

Our Donor Chairman, Janis Vanderford, reports that we have had a good response after listing some important needs in our previous newsletter. Several patrons have stepped up and become "Shining Stars."

In fact, we already have enough donations to purchase a new light board, which we hope to have in operation by our second show of the current season. In addition, we have donations towards a new amplifier, new theater lighting fixtures, and a partial sponsor for one of the upcoming shows. These "Shining Stars" will be recognized in the future by a plaque in the lobby, and their names will be listed in the *Shivaree* program.

We still are looking for "Shining Stars" to help us purchase additional computer equipment and software for our box office, additional theater lighting, and audio playback equipment in our tech booth. Get your group to underwrite one of our productions. This expands our budget for set decor, costumes, etc.

THANK YOU for supporting the performing arts!

RESERVE THE DATE!!!

One of the high points of the year is our annual Aldea Awards Breakfast. This year it will be held on Saturday, August 9, at 10:00 am at Fredericka Manor. All are welcome to join the fun and excitement as we have a great buffet breakfast, pass out a few trophies, talk about the past season, win a few raffle prizes, and have a lot of laughs.

Stage Write has gone electronic

OnStage Playhouse has "gone green" with this issue of Stage Write.

Members, subscribers, and current donors will still be mailed paper copies of Stage Write unless they have notified us that they are happy with the electronic version only.

Friends, actors, former members and donors, and others in our database who have given us their email address are receiving this Stage Write by email only.

To read the electronic version of Stage Write you must have a computer with an internet connection and Acrobat Reader software (most computer owners have this free software). A printer will come in handy if you wish to print out the Stage Write.

If you are a member, subscriber, or donor to OnStage and would prefer an electronic copy instead of or in addition to the paper copy, please email us at onstageplayhouse@excite.com and let us know. Thank you for helping us keep our costs down!

President's Corner

By Bruce Wilde

Welcome to our new season! But before we begin let's revisit last year: Shakespeare, Groucho, comedy, drama and baseball. We all had a great time and so did the ACT San Diego judges: EVERY SHOW received a nomination and Groucho lead the way with 11 Aubrey nods!

But enough nostalgia... *SHIVAREE* starts our year with a sweet, winning comedy of young love between the shut-in Chandler: over-protected by his mom from his hemophilia, who is drawn into the real world by his new neighbor Shivaree, a belly dancer. This is the directorial debut for our Artistic Director, Teri Brown, and this warm hearted coming of age story is sure to be a favorite.

Our 2008-2009 Season of Shows

Typically, the rights to perform a play can only be guaranteed six months in advance. Thus all theatre companies face the possibility that a show they are hoping to produce will not be available.

Such was the case with us this year regarding *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, which we were planning to stage next Spring. Unfortunately the rights were not available. However, we were able to substitute an amazing play called *Accomplice* by Rupert Holmes. Beginning like a typical English thriller, the twists and turns in this clever show will have you spinning in your seats!

Accomplice will be staged March 6 through April 4, 2009. Season tickets are still available for the 2008-2009, so please make sure you reserve yourself a good seat for all six shows, including *Accomplice*, by becoming a subscriber. For \$75 (\$65 for seniors), you can treat yourself to a year of quality theatre. There will never be a greater entertainment value.

Our 2008-2009 Season:

Shivaree by William Mastrosimone

July 11 - Aug 9, 2008

Fat Pig by Neil LaBute

Sept 5 - Oct 4, 2008

1984 from George Orwell

Oct 31 - Nov 29, 2008

After-Play by Anne Meara

Jan 9 - Feb 7, 2009

Accomplice by Rupert Holmes

March 6 - April 4, 2009

Lend Me a Tenor by Ken Ludwig

May 8 - June 6, 2009

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

1984

Drama from George Orwell. Adapted to the stage by Robert Owens & Wilton E. Hall and William A. Miles Jr.

Auditions will be held at OnStage Playhouse at 291 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, on Sunday, September 7 and Monday, September 8, 2008. No appointment is necessary, but please arrive by 7 pm.

Auditions will be cold readings from the script. Please bring head shot and theatre resume. For more information, please leave a message on the theatre telephone at (619) 422-7787. Rehearsals will be held on weeknight evenings. Character descriptions are on the OnStage web site at www.onstageplayhouse.org.

1984 opens Friday, October 31, and runs through Saturday, November 29. Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2 pm (no performance on Thanksgiving, November 27)

Around the County

We encourage you to support other community theatre companies in the county. Here are some of the upcoming shows being offered by our sister theatre groups in San Diego County.

*The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's
Guild Dramatic Society's Production of MacBeth*

Patio Playhouse, Escondido,

July 11 - Aug 3

Call (760) 746-6669

No Sex Please, We're British

PowPAC

July 11 - Aug 10

Call (858) 679-8085


The Taming of the Shrew

Coronado Playhouse

Sept 5 - Sept 28

Call (619) 435-4856

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Theatre telephone: (619) 422-7787

Visit us on the web at

<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>
email: OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com

PLAYING AT ONSTAGE...

Shivaree

Romance by William Mastrosimone

Directed by Teri Brown

July 11 - August 9, 2008

Fat Pig

Scathing comedy by Neil LaBute

Directed by Kym Pappas

Sept 5 - Oct 4, 2008

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at
8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

OUR THEATER IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CHULA VISTA AT 291
THIRD AVENUE, NEAR F STREET. LOOK FOR THE GREEN AWNING.

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a grant from Supervisor
Greg Cox and the County Board of Supervisors.

Theater renovation was made possible by a grant from the Colonel
Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation.

The 2008 Student Intern Program is funded in part a grant
From the Chula Vista Office of Arts and Culture.

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