

NEWS

NEW SEASON AT HERMOSA BEACH PLAYHOUSE INCLUDES A NUN, A DOG, ANGRY REINDEER, A FORTUNE TELLER AND A WORLD PREMIERE

HERMOSA BEACH, Calif., September 12, 2008 – The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities announces the 2008/2009 season of award-winning, inviting and funny plays and musicals at the 500-seat Hermosa Beach Playhouse, 170 Pier Avenue at Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach. The season includes “Blithe Spirit,” October 14 - 26, “The Reindeer Monologues,” November 4 – 16, “Sylvia,” January 13 – 25, 2009, “Til Death Do Us Part,” March 17 – 29, and the world premiere of “The Green Room,” May 19 – 31.

The hilariously funny, brilliant and clever Noel Coward comedy “Blithe Spirit” comes to the playhouse stage just in time for Halloween. A zany, shady medium “contacts” the host’s first (and deceased) wife as he entertains his new wife and friends. A battle ensues between wives living and dead that leaves audiences rolling in the aisles with laughter.

A furor erupts when Santa Claus is accused of sexual harassment by a couple of his reindeer. All eight share their views and anger about “the fat boy’s” alleged behavior in the darkly comic Jeff Goode fare, “The Reindeer Monologues,” a new holiday story that the LA Times calls “wickedly funny.”

The New Year kicks off with the hilarious and touching “Sylvia,” A. R. Gurney’s notion of a very different ménage a trois. The travails of a middle-aged Manhattan couple with a new street-smart pet gives profoundly funny meaning to “mid-life crisis.”

Nine years of life-lessons at Hermosa Beach Playhouse from everyone’s favorite nun, Maripat Donovan, are clearly not enough. After teaching countless audiences about saints, venial sins, guilt, limbo and more, Sister now takes on the sacraments of marriage and last rites in a two-week workshop version of “Til Death Do Us Part, Late Night Catechism 3” that includes a wacky newlywed game show takeoff.

The season concludes in the spring with the world premiere of “The Green Room.” Playhouse audiences will be the first to see a full staging of one of the most talked about modern musicals about four college students finding their life’s purpose.

Each show previews for three performances and runs Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and one performance at 7 p.m. on the first Sunday of the run. Tickets are priced at \$35 to \$45 and can be purchased online at hermosabeachplayhouse.com or by calling (310) 372-4477. The Hermosa Beach Playhouse is located on the southwest corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Pier Avenue.

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The Hermosa Beach Playhouse is a division of the Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities and was created for the greater South Bay area to expand the availability of programming by providing a more intimate setting. The company is under the direction of James A. Blackman III, executive producer, Christopher Beyries, managing director, and Stephanie A. Coltrin, artistic director.

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For reservations to Press Nights (Opening Nights), contact: sandy@aldrichpr.com

CALENDAR

The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities presents "Blithe Spirit" Oct. 14 – 26, 2008 at the 500-seat Hermosa Beach Playhouse, 170 Pier Avenue at Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach. The hilariously funny, brilliant and clever Noel Coward comedy comes to the playhouse stage just in time for Halloween. Previews Oct. 14 – 16, opens Oct. 17, runs through Oct. 26, Tuesdays thru Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm and one performance at 7pm on Sunday, Oct. 19. Tickets \$35 - \$45. Call (310) 372-4477 or visit hermosabeachplayhouse.com for tickets.

The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities presents "The Reindeer Monologues" Nov. 4 – 16, 2008 at the 500-seat Hermosa Beach Playhouse, 170 Pier Avenue at Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach. All eight reindeer share their views and anger about "the fat boy's" alleged behavior in a holiday story that the LA Times calls "wickedly funny." Previews Nov. 4 – 6, opens Nov. 7, runs through Nov. 16, Tuesdays thru Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm and one performance at 7pm on Sunday, Nov. 9. Tickets \$35 - \$45. Call (310) 372-4477 or visit hermosabeachplayhouse.com for tickets.

The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities presents "Sylvia" Jan. 13 – 25, 2009 at the 500-seat Hermosa Beach Playhouse, 170 Pier Avenue at Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach. A. R. Gurney's notion of a very different ménage a trois follows the travails of a middle-aged Manhattan couple with a new street-smart pet. Previews Jan. 13 – 15, opens Jan. 16, runs through Jan. 25, Tuesdays thru Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm and one performance at 7pm on Sunday, Jan. 9. Tickets \$35 - \$45. Call (310) 372-4477 or visit www.hermosabeachplayhouse.com for tickets.

The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities presents a two-week workshop of "Til Death Do Us Part: Late Night Catechism 3" Mar. 17 – 29, 2009 at the 500-seat Hermosa Beach Playhouse, 170 Pier Avenue at Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach. After teaching countless audiences about saints, venial sins, guilt, limbo and more, Maripat Donovan takes on the sacraments of marriage and last rites. Previews Mar. 17 – 19, opens Mar. 20, runs through Mar. 29, Tuesdays thru Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm and one performance at 7pm on Sunday, Mar. 22. Tickets \$35 - \$45. Call (310) 372-4477 or visit www.hermosabeachplayhouse.com for tickets.

The Civic Light Opera of South Bay Cities presents the world premiere of "The Green Room" May 19 – 31, 2009 at the 500-seat Hermosa Beach Playhouse, 170 Pier Avenue at Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach. Playhouse audiences will be the first to see a full staging of one of the most talked about modern musicals about four college students finding their life's purpose. Previews May 19 – 21, opens May 22, runs through May 31, Tuesdays thru Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm and one performance at 7pm on Sunday, May 24. Tickets \$35 - \$45. Call (310) 372-4477 or visit www.hermosabeachplayhouse.com for tickets.

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