
PLAYHOUSE WEST
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1345 LOCUST STREET - WALNUT CREEK - CA - 925.942.0300

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PLAYHOUSE WEST PREMIERES ENGAGING NEW MUSICAL

WHO: Playhouse West
WHAT: West Coast premiere of "In This House" by Sarah Schlesinger, Mike Reid, and Jonathan Bernstein
WHEN: Jan. 31 - Mar. 2, 2008
WHERE: Playhouse West, 1345 Locust Street, Walnut Creek, CA
TICKETS: \$26-30
INFO: (925) 942-0300

WALNUT CREEK: Playhouse West begins 2008 with the West Coast premiere of a powerful new musical "In This House" by Sarah Schlesinger, Jonathan Bernstein, and composer Mike Reid. Telling of a life-altering chance encounter between two couples – one young and one long married, the musical runs Jan. 31 – Mar. 2.

"My relationship with the show started in New York in June, 2006," recalls Playhouse West artistic director Lois Grandi. "I was having lunch with an old friend, George Lee Andrews, who, having played one of the impresarios in 'Phantom of the Opera' since it began 20 years ago, has the distinction of being the longest running actor on Broadway. He had performed in the readings of a new musical that he thought I might be interested in. I met with Sarah Schlesinger and Mike Reid, and we decided Playhouse West was a perfect venue to do the West Coast premiere." Both Schlesinger and Reid plan to attend the opening.

"We are very fortunate to be able to produce a premiere written by these incredibly talented writers," adds Grandi. Bernstein's plays have been produced all over the country and his many directorial credits include: "Private Lives" starring Alan Rickman; "The Iceman Cometh" with Kevin Spacey and Paul Giamatti; and "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" starring Dame Diane Rigg.

Co-writer and lyricist, Schlesinger has received a plethora of awards for her writing, premiering works at Chicago's acclaimed Steppenwolf Theatre Company, the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and Theatreworks USA, to name a few.

When not writing, she is the chair of the Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where Bernstein also directs and teaches.

Composer Mike Reid, on the other hand, began his career as an All-American from Penn State, who was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals and went on to become the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year and voted NFL All-Pro in 1972 and 1973. He gave it all up and moved to Nashville in 1980 to pursue song writing. Since then he has composed more than 30 top ten country and pop hits and received ASCAP's songwriter of the year award as well as a Grammy.

The Playhouse West production features local actors Darrin Glesser, Lynda DiVito, and Gretchen Grant as well as New York performer Michael Harrington. "I'm so glad that Michael was able to accept the part," says Grandi. "He and I had a nightclub act in San Francisco many years ago, and he performed at The Willows, Marin Theatre Company and others before moving to New York." Harrington, similar to Reid, began his professional career in a very different field. Graduating with an engineering degree, he first worked for NASA before pursuing his love of the arts. In addition to his stage and film performances, Harrington designs unique pens for such high-end stores as Neiman Marcus.

"In This House" runs Jan. 31 – Mar. 2 at Playhouse West's intimate theater at 1345 Locust Street in Walnut Creek. Tickets are \$26 – 30 and can be reserved by calling 925-942-0300 or by visiting www.playhousewest.org.

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