

Village Theatre

Performance Preview Guide for



Performances:

In Issaquah: Francis J. Gaudette Theatre, 303 Front Street North, Issaquah

March 17 - April 25, 2010

Wednesday through Saturday: 8:00 PM

Sundays and Saturdays: 2:00 PM

Selected Tuesdays: 7:30 PM

Selected Sundays: 7:00 PM

In Everett: Everett Performing Arts Center, 2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett

April 30 - May 23, 2010

Wednesdays through Saturdays: 8:00 PM

Saturdays and Sundays: 2:00 PM

Selected Sundays: 7:00 PM

Patrons have different ideas of what material or themes are appropriate for them or their families. For this reason, we provide the following information:

The Production:

World Premiering on the Village Theatre Mainstage and written by Emmy-award winner Randy Rogel comes over-the-top hilarity in the new musical *The Gypsy King*. Leo and Frederick are a father-son acting duo whose unfortunate run-in with the royal guard causes quite the royal ruckus. Bearing a curious resemblance to the arrogant Prince Alfonse, Frederick finds himself in a dangerous position. Laugh riotously as you follow his adventures into the middle of an assassination plot that takes him through a maze of castle doors, to the bottom of a moat, and beyond. With a classic vaudeville feel, this new musical romp will cause quite a stir with its fast-paced comedic action.

Versions available to preview: None. This is a new musical making its **World Premiere** at Village Theatre.

Production length: Approximately two-hours, with one 15-minute intermission.

Synopsis:

Please note: the following information may contain plot spoilers.

ACT I

The show opens with a duo of gypsies, father and son, singing of their travels to many towns. Frederick, the son, has had it with this lifestyle, never staying in one place long enough to put down roots. His father Leo realizes that he wants to give his son this kind of life, but their act has not provided them with the money they would need.

After Leo leaves to find food for him and his son, a peasant girl appears asking for Frederick's help to hide her from some men who are looking for her. They hide her while the men pass, and when Frederick offers to take her with them she refuses, not wanting to get them in trouble. Frederick, taking a liking to his new acquaintance named Anisette, begins to charm her with some tricks from his act. She begins to confide in him that she would like Frederick's lifestyle, living in a wagon and going to towns where you're free to do what you want and no one recognizes you.

Anisette's nurse, Marie, finds the two and soon after the guards seeking Anisette find them as well. Frederick attempts to prevent Anisette from being taken, and for this he is knocked unconscious and arrested by the guards. As they are taking him, Leo protests and Marie offers to help him sneak into the castle.

At the castle, a group of nobles are gathered with Prince Alfonse, his right-hand man Sergei, and some courtesans. Alfonse is crude, egotistical, and a tyrant, and he is informed that there are rumors of plans for his assassination. Soon after, these rumors are confirmed as the entire group of nobles falls to the floor, poisoned by the champagne used as a toast to Prince Alfonse. Thinking that Sergei has failed at his duty of protecting the Prince, Alfonse demotes him and in turn makes Captain Drago his second in command.

Once Sergei is alone with his stooges, Gielgud and Godfried, we realize that this ruins Sergei's plan to assassinate the Prince and take his role as king. However at this moment, Frederick is being taken to the dungeon, and Godfried notices a striking resemblance between Frederick and Prince Alfonse. This gives Sergei the idea for a new plot to become king. He will send Prince Alfonse abroad secretly, saying that this will keep him safe from assassination plots, and use Frederick as a decoy. Once Frederick has signed a proclamation making Sergei second in line to the throne again he will kill him, and then Prince Alfonse, making himself king.

Alfonse agrees to Sergei's plan after seeing how identical he and Frederick are. Frederick agrees to act as the prince after Sergei promises to pay him a large amount of money for his cooperation. Frederick is apprehensive, but Sergei convinces him that his acting experience makes him perfect for the job.

After becoming the Prince's decoy, Sergei unsuccessfully tries to get Frederick to sign his proclamation. Frederick is then surprised to find a courtesan knocking at his door, begging to make love with him. He is even more surprised to find another one with the same desire, and he is delighted by these assets to being the Prince. He is interrupted by Marie, who has come with Leo, and Frederick tells him of his situation. Sergei then comes in, in another attempt to get Frederick's signature, and he is foiled by Leo.

The group is informed that Anisette's fiancé, Prince Dijon, has arrived, and that Frederick must give Anisette away the next day. After seeing that the Princess is the peasant girl that he met before being arrested, he puts a stop to the wedding. The overly pompous Dijon then draws his sword to fight Frederick for going back on the agreement to give Anisette as his wife. Thinking that Frederick will be killed, Sergei intercepts the fight to get Frederick's signature, then tells a soldier to hit Frederick with a dart to knock him out, but in the process, Sergei receives the dart in his backside. And his efforts are to no avail because the proclamation has been torn.

We switch to Prince Alfonse's voyage at sea, when the ship enters a storm and is capsized by a giant wave. Back at the castle, Anisette sits by Frederick's bedside, because he is

still unconscious from the fight. Anisette thinks she is seeing a new side of her brother as they talk, but she realizes that she can't trust him when he kisses her, forgetting that he's supposed to be her brother.

Sergei enters, and when Frederick tells him that he doesn't want to pretend to be the prince anymore, Sergei says he can be free as soon as he signs the proclamation. Once he gets the signature, he goes back on his word and orders his guards to take Frederick to the moat and drown him. He has been informed that Prince Alfonse was lost at sea, so after he kills Frederick, his plan will be completed.

ACT II

The next day he is distressed to see that Frederick was not drowned in the moat, and that Prince Alfonse has returned, alive. A mad, castle-wide chase ensues where Leo and Marie try to save Frederick from Sergei. However, Alfonse gets mistaken for Frederick and sent to the dungeons until Sergei is coronated.

Because Frederick has slipped Sergei's grasp, Marie decides to use Frederick as a decoy again. The only way to stop Sergei's coronation is for the Prince to appear, so Frederick must be present at the coronation to fool the crowd. To prove he is an imposter, Sergei asks Frederick to tell him how the Prince did not drown in the storm, and Frederick tells an epic tale of his escape. Exasperated, Sergei denounces him as an imposter and demands that Anisette ask Frederick something that only the Prince would know. Anisette swears that he is the real prince and Frederick banishes Sergei.

Determined, Sergei forces Gielgud and Godfried to confess that they were the king's murderers. However they also tell everyone that it was Alfonse who put them up to it, so as a murderer, Frederick must be put to death. Sergei throws Marie and Leo into the dungeons too, and while locked up together, they reminisce about the ups and downs of their marriages.

As a guard approaches to take Marie and Leo, Marie realizes the truth about Frederick's birth and the mystery of the striking similarities in Alfonse and Frederick's appearances. What they think is the guard is actually Drago coming to rescue them, and Marie tells Leo to find Alfonse while she saves Frederick from the executioner.

Now freed, Alfonse interrupts the execution just in time. He exposes Sergei for his plot to become king, and in a panic Sergei jumps out the window, alive but now at the mercy of Alfonse.

To everyone's dismay, Alfonse orders Frederick to be executed, until Marie exposes the truth about Alfonse and Frederick's births. By coincidence, Leo's wife gave birth at the same time as the queen, but the queen's child died at birth. Thinking she would be killed for the child's death, Marie, the nurse for the births, switched the gypsy's baby with the queen's. However the queen had twins, and after the switch, the child that she thought was dead was actually alive again. Unable to switch the children back at this point, the royal twins were separated, and the gypsy's child, a young Anisette was thought to be part of the royal family. Marie proves this by showing that the birth certificates were forged, but their real birth certificates show that Frederick is the older child, thereby making him king.

At this discovery, Alfonse leaps at Frederick, trying to regain his position. They fight, but Alfonse is knocked out. Frederick marries Anisette, and Leo marries Marie, and they all decide to take their honeymoon on the gypsies' traveling wagon, fulfilling Anisette's desire to travel.

Script Content Details

Please note: the following information may contain plot spoilers.

Violence:

- A few people are knocked unconscious—all in jest.
- There are swordfights and fistfights in a few scenes.
- A room full of people are killed in a non-violent and comic manner.

Sexual content:

- Scattered kissing throughout the musical.
- Comical references to sex throughout.
- Courtesan characters in many scenes.
- Several instances of comical physical groping.

Language:

- Mild swearing in several scenes.

Substances:

- Several instances of referencing and consuming alcohol.

Religion:

- A Bishop is seen in a very silly light throughout.

Other:

- Overall sense of crass humor throughout.