

Village Theatre

**PRESS RELEASE
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THE GYPSY KING: HILARIOUS COMIC ROMP WORLD PREMIERES AT VILLAGE THEATRE

ISSAQUAH and EVERTT, WA – Village Theatres produces the World Premiere production of Emmy Award-winner Randy Rogel’s musical, *THE GYPSY KING*. This production will have one preview performance in Issaquah on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, and will officially open the following evening, running March 8-April 25, 2010 in downtown Issaquah, April 30-May 23, 2010 in downtown Everett.

Village Theatre first heard about *THE GYPSY KING* at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre’s (NAMT) new works Festival in 2007. “We loved it and immediately brought it back with us to workshop further in hopes that we would one day be able to put it up on the Mainstage,” Robb Hunt, executive producer commented. When the show got to Village Theatre in 2008, it was initially presented in Village Theatre’s Village Originals Festival of New Musicals, and from there was given a fully staged developmental production at Village’s First Stage Theatre in 2009. Both productions generated such an enormous amount of buzz and audience acclaim that this new musical quickly became a shoe-in for the 2009-2010 Mainstage season. Director Richard Gray commented, “I have participated in the Festival of New Musicals since its inception and have been lucky to direct readings of some very funny musicals, including *Like You Like It* and *Iron Curtain*. Still, I have never seen an audience reaction like the one we had for *The Gypsy King* at the Festival in 2008.”

Author Randy Rogel is an old friend of Village Theatre’s and a Seattle favorite in the Theatre scene. Winner of three Emmy Awards (ten nominations), a Peabody Award, and two Annie Awards for his work as a television writer, composer, and producer, Rogel’s new musical is described by director Richard Gray as, “an airtight farce with hilarious well-drawn characters and a plot full of twists and turns that rival the classic comedies of the 1930s and 1940s.” Mr. Gray has been active with Village Theatre for years, involved with the Village Originals program and as a Mainstage actor. A talented composer as well, Gray has been with this show for some time now, having directed the first Festival reading at Village Theatre in 2008. Hunt stated, “Rich Gray seemed like a natural fit for this particular piece, and we are so thrilled that he is here again to direct the show for the Mainstage.”

Village Theatre's production of THE GYPSY KING is choreographed by Kathryn Van Meter (Village Theatre: *The King and I*; *The Who's TOMMY*); scenic design by Jeffrey Cook (5th Avenue: ...*Forum*; *Smokey Joe's Cafe*); musical direction by R.J. Tancioco (Village Theatre: *Stunt Girl*, *EVITA*); orchestrations by Bruce Monroe (Village Theatre: *Stunt Girl*; *Girl of My Dreams*); lighting design by Alex Berry (Village Theatre: Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*); costume design by Karen Ledger (Village Theatre: *The Importance of Being Earnest*); and sound design by Gino Scarpino (*Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Chasing Nicolette*).

Pre-production photos are available online now; production photos will be available after March 16, 2010. For more information or to schedule individual interviews, please contact Michelle Sanders, Communications Manager at (425) 392-1942 x124 or msanders@villagetheatre.org.

THE GYPSY KING Synopsis:

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.

- What:** *The Gypsy King*
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Randy Rogel
Conceived and Created by Kirby Ward and Randy Rogel
- Where:** **In Issaquah:** Francis J. Gaudette Theatre
303 Front Street North
Issaquah, WA 98027
- In Everett:** Everett Performing Arts Center
2710 Wetmore Avenue
Everett, WA 98201
- When:** **Issaquah Dates:** March 17-April 25, 2010 – **ON SALE NOW**
Wednesdays through Saturdays: 8:00 PM
Sundays and selected Saturdays: 2:00 PM
Selected Tuesdays: 7:30 PM
Selected Sundays: 7:00 PM
- Everett Dates:** April 30-May 23, 2010 – **ON SALE: 3/24/2010**
Wednesdays through Saturdays: 8:00 PM
Saturdays and Sundays: 2:00 PM
Selected Sundays: 7:00 PM

Tickets:

Issaquah:

\$19-\$59, Box Office (425) 392-2202 or (866) 688-8049

Everett:

\$17-\$52, Box Office (425) 257-8600 or (888) 257-3722

www.villagetheatre.org

Student & Military Rush: 1/2 price 30 minutes prior to curtain for any available seat. Group discounts available for groups of 10 or more.

About Village Theatre

Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining quality productions for the entire family since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region's best-attended Equity theatres, with over 18,000 Subscribers and 182,000 projected total attendance each season. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having launched over 85 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its youth education programs, Pied Piper and KIDSTAGE, serving over 54,000 young people, families, and schools annually.

Village Theatre season sponsors are Continental Airlines, Microsoft, and Lombardi's

Village Theatre is also funded in part by 4Culture, ArtsFund, ArtsUnited, Axonus, City of Everett, City of Issaquah /Issaquah Arts Commission, Continental Airlines, Encore Arts Program, The Herald, Issaquah/Sammamish Reporter, KING5.com, Larkspur Landing, Lombardi's Neighborhood Italian, Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, Microsoft, National Endowment for the Arts, Overlake Hospital and Medical Center, Port Blakely Communities/Issaquah Highlands, Rowley Properties, and Washington State Arts Commission. Village Theatre is a member of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and Theatre Puget Sound.

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