

Diablo Light Opera Company

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EDITORS: Photos may also be downloaded from the media section of the Diablo Light Opera Company Web site – www.dloc.org

Tony Award-Winning Musical

Diablo Light Opera Will Present Broadway Hit ‘La Cage Aux Folles’

Jumping the gun on a Broadway revival of “La Cage Aux Folles,” the Diablo Light Opera Company (DLOC) will present the musical comedy, replete with a 28-member cast adorned in lavish costumes, in 18 performances beginning October 8 in Walnut Creek.

The Broadway revival is scheduled to open at the Marquis Theatre in New York in December, with previews scheduled to begin Nov. 7—a day after the DLOC production closes in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Local performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. on Oct. 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, and Nov. 4, 5, and 6, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Oct. 10, 17, 31 and Nov. 6.

Tickets--\$24 to \$32—are on sale at the center, (925) 943-7469. www.dlrca.org

It is the second time DLOC has presented the musical, an adaptation of the classic French play and film. “The Birdcage” with Robin Williams and Nathan Lane, about a middle-aged homosexual couple. They are forced to hide their sexual orientation in order to meet the fiancée of one of the men’s sons and her family. DLOC produced the show during its 1989-90 season.

With music by Jerry Herman and book by Harvey Fierstein, “La Cage” opened on Broadway 21 years ago. In a time when homosexuality had yet to become the basis of a big Broadway musical, “La Cage” proved to be a raging success.

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The show received Tony Awards for best musical, best book (Fierstein), best original score (Herman), best actor (George Hearn), best direction (Arthur Laurents) and best costume design (Theoni V. Aldredge).

“Given all the societal changes since it first opened, the show is perhaps more relevant today,” said DLOC producer Alice Gracer. “It reminds people that we should not discriminate and love should triumph.”

Sue Ellen Nelson, a recipient of a 2003 Shellie Award for best direction of a musical for DLOC’s “Ragtime,” will direct “La Cage.

“Some of the fun of ‘La Cage’ is the mixed gender chorus line: two of the 10 dancers are women.,” says Nelson. “Trying to guess which are male and which are female can be frustratingly fun. In addition, some of the men are new to cross dressing, leading a distinctly heterosexual life off stage. How titillating!”

Georges, one of the lead roles in the DLOC production, will be played by Curt Denham of Tracy. He made his debut with DLOC as the king in the company’s “The King and I” earlier this year. Previously, he appeared in the Contra Costa Musical Theatre production of “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” He appeared in “Follies” with the Stockton Civic Theatre; “The Sound of Music” with the Modesto Performing Arts Association, and “Romance/Romance,” with the Stanislaus Arts Council’s guest artist series.

Albin, another lead role, will be performed by Peter Del Fiorentino, of Vallejo, He has won awards for performances with Alameda Civic Light Opera. He and his partner manage PM Productions, a theater company.

DLOC’s 18-piece orchestra will be conducted by Cheryl Yee Glass.

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