

AUDITIONS AND NEW MUSICAL REVUE AT THE QC THEATRE WORKSHOP

Written by Tyson Danner

Wednesday, 25 September 2013 08:55

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Having recently completed the run of its acclaimed presentation of How I Learned to Drive, Davenport's QC

Theatre Workshop is gearing up for its second and third productions in the company's 2013-14 season: Last

Call: The Songs of Stephen Sondheim, running November 1 through 17, and True West, with auditions for the

January show taking place on October 19.

With Last Call: The Songs of Stephen Sondheim, co-creators Tyson Danner (the Workshop's Artistic Director

and Last Call's music director) and Mike Schulz (Last Call's director) have fashioned an homage to the Tony-,

Grammy-, and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer/lyricist that is a showcase for some of Sondheim's finest musical achievements, sung by a cast of nine of the Quad Cities' most dynamic performers.

Last Call 's cast features: Erin Churchill (Circa '21's Irving Berlin's White Christmas, the District Theatre's Avenue Q); Don Denton (Circa '21's Miracle on 34th Street and The Full Monty); Angela Elliott (the Workshop's boom, the District Theatre's Company); James Fairchild (Circa '21's Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, the District Theatre's Rent); Kim Furness (Circa '21's The King & I, the Curtainbox Theatre Company's Time Stands Still); Patrick Gimm (Playcrafters' The Trouble with Cats, the Prenzie Players' The Rover); Mark Ruebling (Quad City Music Guild's Curtains, Countryside Community Theatre's Gypsy); Allison Swanson (St. Ambrose University's You Can't Take It with You, the Curtainbox's Wit); and, in her area-theatre debut, Sara Tubbs (ComedySportz's "Sketchville" ensemble).

Employing instantly recognizable and less familiar songs from such works as Sweeney Todd, Into the Woods,

Company, and even the film Dick Tracy (for which Sondheim won an Oscar for Best Original Song), the songs

of Last Call find spouses, lovers, friends, and strangers crossing paths, reminiscing, and

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connecting over the show's 90-minute running length. Through beautiful music and haunting emotion, Last Call explores themes frequently addressed in the Sondheim canon – particularly the intertwined joy and heartbreak of romantic love—and runs November 1 through 17, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday performances at 3 p.m.

Meanwhile, two weeks prior to Last Call's opening, the theatre will host auditions for its January production (dates TBD) of the dark comedy True West, which will take place at the QC Theatre Workshop (1730 Wilkes Avenue, Davenport) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 19.

Written by Pulitzer Prize-winner Sam Shepard, True West is an intense, funny, and explosive tale of warring brothers, Hollywood screenwriting, and the frequently tricky, maddening, and dangerous bonds shared by family. Shepard's Tony-nominated script will also be given a rather unusual presentation at the Workshop, as the actors cast in the leading roles of Austin and Lee will play both characters during the show's run – the determination as to who-plays-which-role will be based on the results of nightly coin tosses held 10 minutes before the performances begin.

True West calls for three men (ages 20s and/or older) and one woman (age 40 or older). Those auditioning should be prepared to read from the script, and are asked to prepare a dramatic monologue of two minutes or fewer. Résumés and headshots are welcome, but not required.

As with the Workshop's five previous productions, both Last Call and True West will be presented under the company's popular "Pay What It's Worth" policy, which allows patrons to determine their own ticket prices following each performance.

For more information on performances of Last Call: The Songs of Stephen Sondheim or auditions for True West, contact Tyson Danner at (563)650-2396 or qctheatreworkshop@gmail.com, or visit QCTheatreWorkshop.org.

True West auditions

Saturday, October 19, 1 p.m.

Last Call: The Songs of Stephen Sondheim performances

Friday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

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Sunday, November 3, 3 p.m.

Friday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 10, 3 p.m.

Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 17, 3 p.m.