

PRESS RELEASE

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Looking for a perfect antidote to the Winter Doldrums: Check into a Plaza Suite!

And – from January 27 through February 12 - you can do that without ever leaving our lower, slower Delaware coast as PLAZA SUITE opens at Clear Space Theatre in Rehoboth Beach! Join us for an evening of fun as Neil Simon's 1968 Tony nominee for Best Play allows us to eavesdrop on the three couples who – in successive acts – arrive to occupy Suite 719.

Act one brings us Sam and Karen, a couple revisiting their honeymoon suite where – Karen hopes – they will rekindle the love that seems to be in ashes – at best. The suite's occupants for the second act are smooth-talking movie producer Jesse, who is working hard to seduce his old flame, Muriel, now a suburban housewife – but well aware of his reputation as a ladies' man. Act three finds Roy and Norma in Suite 719, working – ever more desperately - to extricate their nervous daughter, Mimsie, from the bathroom, where she has taken refuge from her own wedding, about to commence downstairs.

Clear Space favorites Andrew Criss (CHESAPEAKE; LIPS TOGETHER, TEETH APART; DEATHTRAP) and Shannon Parks (HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE) collaborate to bring audiences a rousing evening of entertainment as they portray each of the three couples. Despite long and broad experience in theater, both Criss and Parks are enjoying a "first" with this show: PLAZA SUITE is Criss's first role in a classic American stage comedy, and Parks's first role in a Neil Simon play.

Says Criss, "PLAZA SUITE is a great challenge: It offers three characters, in three small plays, each with his own style of humor. I've had multi-character roles before, but this is the most work – fortunately, it's also the most fun!" He continues, "It's a real treat to work on a show that is so funny. This year may well be one when everyone could use a good laugh. We will give it to them!"

Parks, echoing Criss's enthusiasm, notes that, "I'm so excited to be appearing in my first Neil Simon play! In PLAZA SUITE, he's provided me with three challenging and delightful women to portray. Each is fully endowed with her own distinctive humor and humanity; I'm having a great time developing all three of these vivid roles."

Director David Button concurs with his actors' assessments. "Audiences are going to love Plaza Suite – just as the actors and I already do! It's classic Neil Simon – witty, nuanced; a really fun show. And Shannon and Andrew each bring us three rich, fully-developed characters in their portrayals of the couples occupying Suite 719. Even better, they have a good time doing it! Only our audience members will have more fun."

PLAZA SUITE runs weekends from Friday, January 27 through Sunday, February 12, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:00 pm and Sunday performances at 3:00 pm. Tickets for all shows are \$15 - \$32, and may be purchased on-line at www.clearspacetheatre.org, or by calling the box office at 302-227-2270.