

PRESS RELEASE

From: Clear Space Theatre Company
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“Let Me Entertain You,” invites Louise, as GYPSY comes to Clear Space Theatre for a three-week run. And entertain you this show surely will, weekends from March 10 through March 26. With music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Arthur Laurents, Gypsy contains some of the most well-known – and best-loved – show music of all time, including, “Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” “Small World,” and “You Gotta Get a Gimmick.”

Based loosely on the memoirs of striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, GYPSY traces Lee’s improbable rise to burlesque fame from her shy beginnings as Louise (Katharine Ariyan), the reluctant half of a vaudeville sister act featuring her younger, talented, extroverted sister, June (Grace Morris). It also reveals the formidable force behind that rise: Rose (Yvonne Erickson), the girls’ driven, relentless, mother-of-all-stage-mothers, who propels their careers through the waning days of vaudeville and delivers Louise onto the burlesque stage.

Says Erickson, “Appearing as Rose is a long-time dream fulfilled! I saw Angela Lansbury in the 1974 Broadway revival of GYPSY and was just mesmerized. I had just begun to think about acting as a career, and after seeing that performance – I knew, ‘Yes! That’s what I want to do!’ The role of Rose is often referred to as the “King Lear role of musical theater” - it requires both gravitas and humanity. I love the challenge of keeping this “Tiger-Mom” human!”

Echoing Erickson’s enthusiasm, says Ariyan, “I’m so excited to portray Louise in this production! It’s a challenge to take Louise from the daydreaming, wistful girl we meet at the start to the young woman who in the end finds her courage and boldly takes charge of her life. But I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to take Louise – and our audience members - on that journey!”

Morris concurs, saying, “I’m so excited to be part of this wonderful show! I’m still a student at Sussex Tech High School, and usually have played “little kid” roles in musicals. June is a far more demanding role, in terms of both acting and vocals – and I’m thrilled to have this opportunity!”

GYPSY marks Erickson’s first appearance on the Clear Space stage – a debut this Equity actor, with a 30-year career as a stage, screen and voiceover performer, also finds exciting: “Acting in a smaller, more intimate theatre like Clear Space truly brings the audience to you in a way that simply cannot be experienced in a big, 600+ seat house. The audience really becomes part of the show – you can just feel them right there with you, partnering on the performance – it’s incredibly exhilarating!”

Says Director David Button, “I have always loved this show! I was introduced to GYPSY my senior year of high school when a local theatre was doing it; I auditioned and was cast as Tulsa. I have been waiting for the perfect moment to put it on the Clear Space stage and I am excited to produce it in 2017. Producing

classic musicals has always been a part of our mission, but presenting something that is both personally gratifying and that is widely known as the greatest musical of all time is especially exciting!”

GYPSY runs weekends from Friday, March 10 through Sunday, March 26, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:00 pm and Sunday performances at 3:00 pm. There also is one Thursday performance on March 16, at 11:00 am. 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.