

## TheatreZone's Coming season: Television actors Hal Linden and Georgia Engle among performers

Contributed by TheatreZone

6:50 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2009

Two noted stars of television will be part of TheatreZone's 2009-10 Naples schedule.

The season will kick off in December with "Man of La Mancha," followed in January by "High Spirits," starring Georgia Engle, who was an Emmy nominee on the Mary Tyler Moore Show.

In February, Hal Linden, perhaps best known at TV's Barney Miller, will star in the premiere of "The Abominable Showman." The show is planning a tour and a Broadway run after it leaves TheatreZone.

The complete schedule follows:

### **MAN OF LA MANCHA**

This play-within-a-play, based on Cervantes' "Don Quixote," is a poignant story of a dying old man whose impossible dream takes over his mind. His dream is Everyman's dream. His tilting at windmills is Everyman's great adventure. Somehow, the footlights disappear, time is telescoped and the "Man of La Mancha" speaks for humankind. It played for 2,328 performances in New York and won five Tony Awards including best musical.

Performances: Dec. 3-5 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 5-6 at 2 p.m.; Dec. 9-12 at 8 p.m.; and Dec. 12 at 2 p.m.

### **HIGH SPIRITS**

"High Spirits" is based on Coward's play Blithe Spirit and includes a charming score by Hugh Martin and Timothy Gray. The musical features a fussy, cantankerous novelist named Charles Condomine, who is re-married but haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, the clever and insistent Elvira. Elvira is summoned by a visiting "happy medium," Madame Arcati, played by Engle. As the worldly and un-worldly personalities clash, unlikely twists and turns continue throughout. Engle recently completed co-starring as Mrs. Tottendale in the Tony award-winning Broadway musical, "The Drowsy Chaperone."

Performances: Jan. 7 - 9 at 8 p.m.; Jan. 9 - 10 at 2 p.m.; Jan. 13 - 16 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.

### **THE ABOMINABLE SHOWMAN**

Tony Award-winner Linden takes on one of the strongest and most complex characters of his long career. David Merrick was Broadway's most famous and successful producer. The Abominable Showman gives the audience a behind the scenes look as we explore the workings of the very intense and inventive mind of Merrick. The list of the shows he produced stands as the theater's most spectacular resume: "Gypsy"; "Hello, Dolly"; "Take Me Along"; "Sugar"; "Mack & Mabel"; "Fanny; Carnival"; "Do Re Mi"; "Oliver"; "110 in the Shade"; "I Do! I Do"; "Stop the World — I want to get off"; "Promises, Promises"; and "42nd Street".

Unfortunately, he was also the most hated, reviled and feared man in show business. He was capable of great achievement, often accompanied by staggering acts of cruelty. Was he misunderstood? Was he the monster his enemies and those he hurt said he was, or is the truth somewhere in the middle?

Performances: March 4 - 6 at 8 p.m.; March 6 - 7 at

2 p.m.; March 10 - 13 at 8 p.m. and March 14 at 2 p.m.

### **LEE ROY REAMS**

"Gotta Sing Gotta Dance" man Lee Roy Reams brings his one-man show to Naples. Lee Roy won critical acclaim as Roger DeBris in Mel Brooks' hit musical "The Producers" on Broadway. The New York Times hails him as "Broadway's song and dance man nonpareil" for his leading roles in Merrick's legendary "42 Street," which brought him Tony and Drama Desk nominations, Lumiere in Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," Albin/ZaZa in "La Cage Aux Folies," Cornelius Hackl in "Hello Dolly!," Henry Spofford in "Lorelei," Duane Fox in "Applause" and Will Parker in Richard Rodgers' revival of "Oklahoma!"

His Cabaret show has taken him to the White House and around the world, and he considers it an honor to have performed for four U.S. presidents: Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Performances: April 22 - 24 at 8 p.m. and April 25 at 2 p.m.

### **I LOVE MY WIFE**

This funny Cy Coleman musical is about a would be ménage-a-quatre — two couples who want to plunge into liberated mutual sexuality but only manage to get their toes wet. It happens to take place in, of all places, Trenton, N.J. What is truly innovative about the show is that the musicians are on the stage and are actually welded into the play. They sing, dress up in fancy clothes and comment on the action. The band actually won a Drama Desk Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical. The show won two Tony Awards and ran for over two years on Broadway.

Performances: June 10 - 12, 2010 at 8 p.m.; June 12 - 13, 2010 at 2 p.m.; June 16 - 19, 2010 at 8 p.m. and June 20, 2010 at 2 p.m.

*\* Tickets for the 2009-2010 season are on sale at \$205 for five shows and \$172.00 for four shows. Individual tickets go on sale June 11. They cost \$38 and \$43. All tickers can be ordered online at [www.theatrezone-florida.com](http://www.theatrezone-florida.com)*

*\* All performances will be at The G&L Theatre, 13275 Livingston Road, Naples, one block north of Pine Ridge Road on the campus of The Community School of Naples.*