

Kilts and hit men make for laughs at Sierra Rep

Fast-moving comedy comes to the East Sonora stage through June 28 in Sierra Repertory Theatre's "Unnecessary Farce." The show opens at 7 p.m. Friday

"It's a really, really funny piece," said Dennis Jones, Sierra Rep's producing director, who directs the show. "I hope your sides will be hurting because you'll be laughing so much."

"Unnecessary Farce" was written by Paul Slade Smith, a writer and actor whose performing credits include national tours of "Wicked" and "The Phantom of the Opera."

In a small-town motel room, an embezzling mayor is supposed to meet with his female accountant. Next door, two undercover cops are supposed to catch the meeting on videotape, but there's confusion as to who's in which room, who's taken the money, who's hired a hit man and a whole lot more.

Jones said the American comedy has roots in classic farce and is similar to previous Sierra Rep hits "Noises Off" and "Run for Your Wife." Jones' version is set in the 1980s, with music to match. There

are madcap characters and sexual innuendo. Actors dash in and out of adjoining rooms in hasty entrances and exits. Everyone is in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"It's all part of the rhythm of the comedy," Jones said.

Outrageous characters will also catch audiences' attention. There's a 6-foot, 4-inch tall Scottish assassin played by Pat Pinney, a well-known Los Angeles area voice actor. Pinney, a friend from Jones' days studying theater at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, captivated him with his outrageous humor – and outrageous accents. Audiences may recognize Pinney as the voice of Painty the Pirate in the theme song for "SpongeBob SquarePants." His credits also include "Robot Chicken," "GI Joe," "The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse," "Scooby Doo" and "Harry and the Hendersons."

Daniel Hines (of Sierra Rep's

"Unnecessary Farce"

WHEN: 7 p.m. Friday then 7 p.m. some Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Wednesdays, some Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays through June 28

WHERE: East Sonora Theatre, 13891 Mono Way, Sonora

TICKETS: \$18 to \$32 at sierrarep.org or 532-3120



Rich Miller Photography

Nick Ferruci, back left, Pat Pinney, Ty Smith, Daniel Hines, front left, Francesca Manzi, Kirstin Howell and Diane Kondrat face fun in "Unnecessary Farce."

"Carousel" and "I Love a Piano") returns to Sierra Rep as Eric after playing the lead role in the national touring production of the Broadway musical "Memphis." Sierra Rep newcomer Kristin Howell is Billie. Together, she and Hines play the police officers tasked with the undercover sting to bring down the dimwitted mayor (Sierra Rep favorite Ty Smith). Also in the

show is Nick Ferruci, part of the Sierra Rep cast of last fall's "All My Sons" and "It's a Wonderful Life." He plays Agent Frank, head of security at city hall.

The company advises parents that the show is suitable for ages

13 and older.

The show plays at 7 p.m. some Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Wednesdays, some Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Tickets are \$18 to \$32 at sierrarep.org or call 532-3120.

Cool vibes open Twisted Series in Vallecito

The Twisted Oak Folk Concert Series begins Saturday when the Leftover Cuties arrive in Vallecito. The show starts at 7:45 p.m.

"We're thrilled to be able to kick off our 2015 summer concert series with such an interesting group of

musicians as the Leftover Cuties," said winery co-owner Jeff Stai. "The Leftover Cuties blend 1930s acoustic jazz, a dash of Dixieland and a modern pop vibe into sort of a retro mix of awesomeness. I know that probably makes no sense;

you'll just have to come to the show to see what I mean."

The Leftover Cuties are Shirli McAllen on lead vocals and ukulele, Austin Nicholson on bass, ukulele and vocals, Mike Bolger on brass, keyboards, accordion and vocals and Stuart Johnson on drums and vocals. At leftovercuties.com, it says the band has "sparked a fire among fans with a timeless Prohibition era jazz sound, combining sultry vocals, pop-perfect songwriting and seasoned musicianship. Their spellbinding first album 'Places to Go' won raves from critics. Their impeccable and atmospheric live performances draw ever-growing and increasingly passionate crowds

in the speakeasies and rock clubs of their hometown, Los Angeles."

The band gained fame, too, when the quartet recorded the theme for the Showtime series "The Big C" and a song for a Samsung advertisement that aired during the 2012 Olympics and generated more than 3 million YouTube views.

The gates open at 6:45 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$25 for adults and \$10 for ages 12 and under in advance at twistedoak.com/concerts or 795-9080. Adult tickets at the gate, if available, will be \$30 Saturday. Proceeds from children's ticket sales go

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gold went to Prospect Cellars' 2012, Shenandoah Winery's 2013 and Jeff Runquist Wine's 2013.

Other strong showings included double gold for Cooper Vineyards' 2012 Sangiovese, along with gold medals for Frog's Tooth Vineyards' 2012 and La Folia Winery's 2012. Stevenot Winery and Runquist picked up double golds for their 2012 and 2013 Tempranillos, respectively. Double gold also went to the Chatom 2011 Esmeralda Syrah and Charles

Mitchell's 2012 Meritage.

Golds also went to Drytown Cellars' 2013 Primitivo and 2013 Syrah, Lava Cap Winery's 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon, Frog's Tooth's 2012 Malbec and 2012 Tempranillo, Black Sheep's 2011 Cinsault, Hatcher's 2011 Zinfandel, Brice Station's 2011 Merlot, Ironstone Vineyards' 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2012 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, San Domingo Wines' 2011 Syrah, Sobon Estate's Petite Sirah and

Mineral's 2013 Cabernet Franc.

On the sweeter side of the judging, Single Leaf Winery's 2013 Vintage Port picked up a double gold and Best of Show Dessert Wine. Double gold also went to the Runquist 2014 Muscat Canelli and Frog's Tooth Winery's 2013 Dulcinda.

This is the first of several foothill competitions, including the upcoming Amador County Fair, the largest in the area. A few weeks later, the El Dorado County Fair judging takes place. May the best bottles win.

Leftover Cuties concert

WHEN: 7:45 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Twisted Oak Winery, 4280 Red Hill Road (off Highway 4), Vallecito

TICKETS: \$25 for adults and \$10 for ages 12 and under in advance at twistedoak.com/concerts or 795-9080 or \$30 at the gate

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