Friday, July 15, 2011

# RED, WHITE AND Tuna to show at Clemson Little Theatre

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — It's not unusual at Halloween to see men wearing frumpy dresses and slapping on a curly blonde wig.

And, somehow, the humor of female impersonation by men continues to survive the test of time.

On July 29, a local stage will once again capitalize on that classic comedic cure with Red, White and Tuna slated to be performed by Clemson Little Theatre mainstays Jeff Land and Paul Hyde.

As the final chapter in a three-play Tuna triology, nearly a dozen characters will conjure up laughter on stage, but all will actually be performed by only two cast members.

Directed by funny lady and director extraordinaire Pat Shull, both Land and Hyde have mastered the numerous different roles of characters to be found in Tuna, Texas.

Perhaps the most comfortable of the characters are the two blowhard radio hosts broadcasting live from Tuna; the third smallest town in Texas and the location of the OKKK radio station.

The impersonating fun stems from the basic mentality — some admittedly stereotyped — of small southern towns. Word travels quickly and is steadily carried by people such as Bertha Bumiller, a card-carrying Texas woman who is introduced as just that.

Then there are guys like Didi Snavely, the owner of a used weapon's shop, who backs his right to own and sell guns with as much gusto as the roaming black mama bear that lives near the town's Humane Society.

"You get to see a little bit of everything," said Barry Richards, representative at Clemson Little Theatre. "They (Land and Hyde) will take us on a satirical ride into the hearts and minds of the polyester-clad citizens of Texas' third smallest town."

According to Richards, "Along with Tuna's perennial favorites, some new Tuna denizens burst into the 4th of July Tuna High School Class Reunion, setting the stage for a show full of fireworks and fun from the land where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies.

"It's been several years since we left Bertha and Arles dancing at the end of A Tuna Christmas ... Did the romance blossom? Did Stanley make his fortune in the taxidermy business? These and other burning questions will be answered in this side-splitting spoof of life in rural America."

The wide array of characters ring true to a lot of folks, hence the Tuna success has spread to numerous sequels.

The small town breeding ground for gossip stirs up hilarious stories of neighbors and town-wide loud mouths. With humor and empathy, audience members will laugh with warmth often found in small town America.

"It's so great that most of the local community theaters will put this series on," said Keowee Kew resident Kay Gibson. "Some of our favorites have been A Tuna Christmas at Clemson Little Theatre two years ago. My goodness, they did a fabulous job. We've gone to other shows that the Players have put on and we're always really impressed. You can tell they work really hard to put on the best show possible. This is the type of show that if the two actors really have chemistry, it's non-stop funny."

"It's going to be a lot of fun and my husband and I are looking forward to it," she added.

The show will kick off July 29 to 31 and run again Aug. 5 to 7. Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. and Sunday shows are at 3 p.m.

Tickets are $15 adults, $7 for college students with ID and $7 for youth (18 and under. Call (864) 646-8100 or visit www.clemsonlittletheatre.com for more information.

The Clemson Little Theatre is at 214 S. Mechanic Street in Pendleton.

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**Who will show up at the Fourth of July Tuna High School Reunion? Jeff Land and Paul Hyde will answer that question as they portray numerous characters in the small town of Tuna, Texas.**



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**Two actors, more than 20 characters. Jeff Land and Paul Hyde are gearing up to deliver a performance that is sure to tickle many a funny bone.**