



pasadena citizen - lifestyles

Allergy to laughing? Stay away from 'Sorry, Wrong Chimney' at PLT

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By **GLORIA WALKER SMITH**

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Red satin nightgowns, working overtime, hypnotism, Santa burglar, mistaken identities (many times) – there you have it for Pasadena Little Theatre's comedy, "Sorry, Wrong Chimney."

Just when you think it can't get any "screwier," it does! Not only is the script by Jack Sharkey and Leo Sears incredibly clever, but the cast is made for each of these roles. Wife and husband team Ginger Posey and Russell Swanson as wife and husband team Samantha and David are sharing a marital situation with neighbors Natalie and Bill (Grace Galloway and Steve Quimby) – both husbands are workaholics and both wives feel neglected.

It's almost Christmas and things get to be complicated between these good friends. As if that weren't enough, enter two hilariously funny zanies – Kris Kriegle (Mark Connelly) and his girlfriend, Sheila (Janet Sharpley). Gunshots punctuate the silliness and of course, this involves a visit by a policeman, J.R. Marshall.

I mentioned hypnotism and the indiscriminate use of that brings about more "wild and crazy" scenes involving the Santa burglar, a mink coat, accusations, a striptease dance on the coffee table and near-divorces!

I must stop before I give away the surprises.

This is one of those productions where I cannot spotlight a star. Each one gives 100 percent and it all melds together beautifully to keep the audience laughing from opening to closing scene. Ginger Posey expresses her disappointment in feeling neglected by David in a real way, without over-done theatrics. When the plot gets "physical" she can hold her own, as well. Russell Swanson is under-stated in general, however, he can handle the ridiculous with the best of them.

New to the PLT stage, Grace Galloway is no novice, with many years of acting experience in Houston. As the socialite-big spender, she delivers some very funny lines and certainly looks the part! Steve Quimby is a PLT veteran, who always does an exceptional job. As the hypnotism expert, he is responsible for much of the lunacy that continues all the way through.

Mark Connelly as Kris Kriegle is considered a bonafide idiot! What a super-change from his role as one of the delegates to the Continental Congress in Art Park's "1776." As Santa Claus, he is an unplugged nuthatch! After his "therapy," he is cured and makes a big change – you must see what the change is!

An area favorite, Janet Sharpley, tops every role she has played with her latest adventure. Whether she is beauty shop owner Truvy in "Steel Magnolias" at PLT or the Topsy TV cook Gussie at Stage Door or directing any number of shows, Janet never, never disappoints.

J.R. Marshall is another veteran of several area community theaters, but I'm guessing that one particular segment in "Chimney" is a first for him. (If it isn't, I don't want to know!) His personality in this play is initially what you would expect in his official capacity. With the intervention of hypnosis, things change rapidly.

This is definitely good entertainment and suitable for junior high age and up. What a unique Christmas gift for the family it would be to see "Sorry, Wrong Chimney" together. It will be around through Sunday, Dec. 20, so call for ticket information, 713-991-1758.



Neighbor Natalie (Grace Galloway), husband, David (Russell Swanson) to wife, Samantha (Ginger Posey) are seen in only one of the side-splitting situations in Pasadena Little Theatre's "Sorry, Wrong Chimney." Directed by Jada August and Julie Owen, this Sharkey/Sears comedy is non-stop laughs. It will play weekends at PLT through Dec. 20 at 4318 Allen-Genoa; evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Call 713-991-1758 for ticket information.

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