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**CAST ANNOUNCED FOR SAN DIEGO PREMIERE OF  
“ZANNA, DON'T! – A MUSICAL FAIRY TALE”**

“**Zanna, Don't!**”, the 2003 Off-Broadway musical about a magical high school matchmaker who challenges the way we view love, will receive its San Diego Premiere on April 17, 2009. Tim Acito wrote the book, music, and lyrics, with additional book and lyrics by Alexander Dinelaris. The production team includes Bob Korbett as director and Amy Dalton as musical director. “**Zanna, Don't!**” runs April 17 through May 10, 2009 at the new Washington Street Arts Space in Hillcrest.

**ABOUT THE SHOW**

A 2003 nominee for Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical, “**Zanna, Don't!**” is a musical fairy tale set in a mythical world where everyone is gay. On the Heartsville High School campus, same-sex pairings are the norm and intolerance for heterosexuals is rampant; chess champs trump football quarterbacks in popularity and sex appeal, and a school musical about straights in the military sparks major small town controversy. Meanwhile, Zanna, the school's magical matchmaker, is determined to make sure everyone in town, gay and straight, is happily paired up. The show's high-octane score runs the gamut from pop, funk, R&B and Broadway to touching ballads and dance club mixes.

## THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

The cast features **Shaun Tuazon** (*Songs from a New World* at SDSU Musical Theatre and *Backwater Blues*, Compass Theatre) as Zanna; **Zachary Bryant** (*Yank!*, *Corpus Christi* and *It's a Fabulous Life* all with the Diversionary Theatre) as Steve; **Sonia Balanay** (*42<sup>nd</sup> Street* at San Diego City College) as Kate; **Whitney Shay** (*Zombie Prom*, SDSU Musical Theatre) as Roberta; **Ritchie Valenzuela** (*Footloose* at Christian Community Theater) as Mike; **Trevor Bowles** (*Backwater Blues* at Compass Theatre and *Corpus Christi* at Diversionary Theatre) as Tank; **Clarione Gutierrez** (*Seussical the Musical*, *West Side Story*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* all at San Diego City College) as Arvin; **Cashae Monya** (La Jolla Playhouse's *Memphis*) as Candi; and with **Simon Barrett** (*The Magical Forest* at Coronado Playhouse) and newcomer **Stephanie Hester** in the ensemble.

Director **Bob Korbett** is a veteran actor, writer, director, drama instructor, theater critic and producer. He recently created the Washington Street Arts Space where his Real Theater/SD presented Neal Simon's *Star-Spangled Girl* and *A Night of One-Acts*.

**Amy Dalton**, Musical Director, was recognized by StageSceneLA for Outstanding Achievement by a Musical Director for her work last year in Diversionary Theatre's *Yank!* Recently, Amy was music director and pianist for *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* at Cygnet Theatre.

### THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT “**ZANNA, DON'T!**”

1. “**Zanna, Don't!**” has absolutely, positively nothing whatsoever to do with “Xanadu”, the recent musical based on the Olivia Newton John film.
2. “**Zanna, Don't!**” was nominated for numerous theatrical awards during the 2003 season, including Drama Desk Best Musical, Best Music, Best Book, and Best Lyrics.
3. Although the 2003 Off-Broadway production was critically-acclaimed, plans to bring the show to Broadway, renamed simply “Zanna!”, never came to fruition. The theatrical rights were released in the spring of 2007.

### THE SAN DIEGO PREMIERE

Performances of “**Zanna, Don't!**” are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m., at the new Washington Street Arts Space located at 116 West Washington Street in Hillcrest. The show is slated to run from April 17 through May 10, with a special “Industry Night” performance on Monday, April 27, to allow working actors and other theater professionals an opportunity to see the show. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$28, with discounts for seniors, students, active-duty military and groups. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.zannasd.com](http://www.zannasd.com) or by calling 619-692-1875.

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For additional information, please visit [www.zannasd.com](http://www.zannasd.com) .

**ARIEL PERFORMING ARTS FACT SHEET**  
***ZANNA, DON'T! – A MUSICAL FAIRY TALE***

**WHAT:** Ariel Performing Arts presents *Zanna, Don't! – A Musical Fairy Tale*

**WHERE:** Washington Street Arts Space  
116 West Washington St., San Diego, CA 92103

**WHO:** Book, music, and lyrics written by Tim Acito  
Additional book and lyrics by Alexander Dinelaris

Director: Bob Korbett  
Musical Director: Amy Dalton

**CAST:** Sonia Balanay (Kate)  
Simon Barrett (Ensemble)  
Trevor Bowles (Tank)  
Zachary Bryant (Steve)  
Clarione Gutierrez (Arvin)  
Stephanie Hester (Ensemble)  
Cashae Monya (Candi)  
Whitney Shay (Roberta)  
Shaun Tuazon (Zanna)  
Ritchie Valenzuela (Mike)

**WHEN:** April 17, 2009 through May 10, 2009  
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.  
Special "Industry Night" Performance, Monday, April 27, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

**TICKETS:** \$25 Fridays and Sundays, General Admission  
\$28 Saturdays, General Admission  
Discounts are available for students, seniors, active-duty military and groups.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.zannasd.com](http://www.zannasd.com) or by calling 619-692-1875.

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**SAMPLE LISTINGS**

**ZANNA, DON'T!** is a musical fairy tale about a matchmaking teen who turns relationships upside down, challenges our point of view and changes the world. Not your sister's High School Musical! San Diego Premiere, April 17-May 10. Friday-Sunday 7:30 p.m. \$25-28/general, \$20-23/seniors, students, military. Washington Street Arts Space, 116 West Washington St., Hillcrest. (619) 692-1875. [www.zannasd.com](http://www.zannasd.com).

**ZANNA, DON'T!**, April 17-May 10: San Diego Premiere. Set in a mythical land where everyone is gay, this musical fairy tale has a high-octane score that runs the gamut from pop, funk, R&B and Broadway to dance club mixes and touching ballads. A 2003 nominee for Best Off-Broadway Musical. Friday-Sunday 7:30 p.m. \$25-28/general, \$20-23/seniors, students, military. Washington Street Arts Space, 116 West Washington St., Hillcrest. (619) 692-1875. [www.zannasd.com](http://www.zannasd.com).

**ZANNA, DON'T!**, April 17-May 10: San Diego Premiere. In this musical fairy tale, everything is reversed--the captain of the chess team is the coolest guy in school, the quarterback of the football team can't seem to fit in, and being gay is the prevailing norm. Zanna, Heartsville High School's magical matchmaker, is determined to make sure everyone in town, gay and straight, is happily paired up. Friday-Sunday 7:30 p.m. \$25-28/general, \$20-23/seniors, students, military. Washington Street Arts Space, 116 West Washington St., Hillcrest. (619) 692-1875. [www.zannasd.com](http://www.zannasd.com).

**ZANNA, DON'T!**, April 17-May 10: San Diego Premiere. This award-winning musical fairy tale is set in a topsy-turvy world where everyone is gay. To the tune of a catchy high-octane score, Zanna, the high school matchmaker, tackles heterophobia and challenges the way we view love. Friday-Sunday 7:30 p.m. \$25-28/general, \$20-23/seniors, students, military. Washington Street Arts Space, 116 West Washington St., Hillcrest. (619) 692-1875. [www.zannasd.com](http://www.zannasd.com).