

ARIEL PERFORMING ARTS
2277 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101
619-997-4477 • www.arielperformingarts.com

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Contact: Ron Tov, 619-997-4477
Email: rontov@arielperformingarts.com

**“ZANNA, DON’T! – A MUSICAL FAIRY TALE”
MOVES TO LARGER THEATER**

Heartsville High School and Roosevelt Middle School will be sharing campuses this spring when “**Zanna, Don't!**”, the 2003 Off-Broadway musical about a magical high school matchmaker who challenges the way we view love, receives its San Diego Premiere on April 17, 2009. In response to strong interest ahead of the show’s opening, “**Zanna**” will be taking up residence at the 240-seat Theatre at Roosevelt Middle School on Park Boulevard between Hillcrest and Balboa Park. In addition to its greater seating capacity, the theater has a full-size stage which will allow a live four-piece band to accompany the wide variety of musical numbers that are at the core of the show. “**Zanna, Don't!**” will be performed Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from April 17 through May 10, 2009.

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. Tim Acito wrote the book, music, and lyrics, with additional book and lyrics by Alexander Dinelaris.

“**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.

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** (*42nd 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; **Bradley Sattler** (*Urinetown* and *1001 Grains of Sand* at SDSU Musical Theatre) as Tank; **Trevor Bowles** (*Backwater Blues* at Compass Theatre and *Corpus Christi* at Diversionary Theatre) 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.

Joining the the creative team is director **Ira Spector**, who played the role of Zanna in the Chicago Premiere of **Zanna, Don't!** at Bailiwick Repertory Theater. Ira recently directed *Songs for a New World* at San Diego State University and this summer he will be working on the world premiere of *The First Wives Club* at the Old Globe, directed by Francesca Zambello.

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!**” is the show that brought Jai Rodriguez to light, playing Zanna, before he shot to fame on television’s *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, as the culture consultant.
3. References to other Broadway musicals, from Stephen Sondheim classics to Jesus Christ Superstar, are sprinkled throughout the show adding to the enjoyment of those who catch the references.

THE SAN DIEGO PREMIERE

Performances of “**Zanna, Don’t!**” are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m., at The Theatre at Roosevelt Middle School located at 3366 Park Boulevard 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 or by calling 619-692-1875.

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For additional information, please visit 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: The Theatre at Roosevelt Middle School
3366 Park Boulevard, San Diego, CA 92103

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

Director: Ira Spector
Musical Direction by Amy Dalton and Patrick Marion

CAST: Sonia Balanay (Kate)
Simon Barrett (Ensemble)
Trevor Bowles (Arvin)
Zachary Bryant (Steve)
Stephanie Hester (Ensemble)
Cashae Monya (Candi)
Bradley Sattler (Tank)
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.

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