

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

For Immediate Release: April 6, 2009

Contact:

Ron Tov, 619-997-4477

Email: rontov@arielperformingarts.com

SAN DIEGO PREMIERE OF “ZANNA, DON’T!” OPENS APRIL 17

“**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.

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 book, music, and lyrics were written by Tim Acito, with additional book and lyrics by Alexander Dinelarlis.

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** playing several roles each.

Heading 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. It has absolutely 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.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

“**Zanna, Don't!**” was nominated for and won several theatrical awards during the 2003 season:

- Drama Desk nominations: Best Musical, Best Music, Best Book, and Best Lyrics.
- Outer Critics Circle Award nomination: Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical.
- Lucille Lortel nominations: Outstanding Musical, Outstanding Choreography (winner), and Outstanding Featured Actress.

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

- **“Zanna Don’t!”** was also awarded the 2003 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding New York Theater Production and voted Favorite Off-Broadway Musical in the Broadway.com Audience Awards.

THE SAN DIEGO PREMIERE

Presented by the independent production company, Ariel Performing Arts, **“Zanna, Don’t!”** will be directed by Ira Spector, with musical direction by Amy Dalton and Patrick Marion. Performances are scheduled for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. from Friday, April 17 through Sunday, May 10, 2009, plus an “Industry Night” Performance on Monday, April 27, 2009. All performances will be at the Roosevelt Theatre located at 3366 Park Blvd. in Hillcrest. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$28, with discounts for seniors, students and active-duty military. Tickets can be purchased online at www.ZannaSD.com or by calling 619-692-1875.

#

For additional information, please visit www.ZannaSD.com .

ARIEL PERFORMING ARTS
2277 Fifth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101
619-997-4477 • www.arielperformingarts.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: Roosevelt Theatre
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 (Officer Klotsky, Cindy and Others)
Trevor Bowles (Arvin, Principal Cooper, Tex and Others)
Zachary Bryant (Steve)
Stephanie Hester (Karla, Mabel and Others)
Cashae Monya (Candi, Loretta and Others)
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.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.ZannaSD.com or by calling 619-692-1875.

#

For additional information, please visit www.ZannaSD.com .