

Smash Productions Is Ready To Entertain

The resident theatrical troupe will present "Gypsy" with showings Oct. 14-16 at Savannah Center.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA
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Janet Maloney has one scene in Smash Productions' upcoming rendition of the hit musical "Gypsy," but it's one that will have the audience in stitches.

She plays Mazeppa, an over-the-hill stripper who can't keep a job. She, along with Electra and Tessie Tura (Marlene Caplis and Sherry Mistler, respectively) sing "You Gotta Get a Gimmick" to Louise (Pinky Bigley). Mazeppa's gimmick involves a horn.

"She's outrageous, and I love it," said Maloney, of the Village of Santo Domingo. "You can throw it all out there to the audience."

Maloney and the rest of the cast feel like everything's coming up roses as they prepare for the show's run from Oct. 14-16 at Savannah Center.

The drama/comedy features music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, as well as a book by Arthur Laurents.

It is loosely based on the



Deborah and Garry Gibbons rehearse a scene from the musical "Gypsy" during Smash Productions' rehearsal Sept. 22 at Manatee Recreation.

Michael Fortuna, Daily Sun

memoir written by Gypsy Rose Lee and puts the focus on her mother Rose, who tries to raise her two daughters to get into show business.

Bob Stehman is handling directing duties for the Smash Productions edition.

"Villagers like to see things they're familiar with," Stehman said. "I told my neighbors about it, and they said, 'Oh, I want to see that.'"

Even if the audience may not know it, they know the songs."

Deborah Gibbons plays Mama Rose, someone who always wanted to perform on stage but never got the chance. "She's living her life through her kids," said Gibbons, of the Village of Glenbrook. "She's just a powerhouse."

Gibbons said Mama Rose reminds her a bit of

her own mother.

"She's critical but she's doing it out of love," Gibbons said.

Gibbons, husband, Garry, plays Herbie, who becomes the girls' agent and becomes a love interest for Mama Rose.

"He's a cool guy," Garry said. "The last two shows I've been in, I've been a bad guy."

Garry's first appearance in a musical came when he was in the seventh grade. He played a newsboy in "Gypsy."

"There are some great songs, some real tear-jerkers," Garry said.

Smash Productions brought in a couple of children to the cast: Aven Wood as Baby June and Sofia Sallee as Young Louise.

"Aven could be on Broadway," Stehman said.

It turns out that Wood

and Sallee are best friends and next-door neighbors. They were excited when they learned they were both cast.

Bringing the songs to life throughout the show is a live seven-piece band.

"We've got folks at the top of their game," said Stehman, of the Village of Bonita. "They have such strong talent."

"Every actor in this show gives 100%, no matter how small the role," Maloney said. "They know what they want, and they get it with professionalism."

"Gypsy" will take place at 7 p.m. Oct. 14, as well as 2 and 7 p.m. Oct. 15-16 at Savannah Center. Tickets are \$38 and up, and are available at any Villages Box Office location or online at thevillagesentertainment.com.