

arts & culture

‘Broadway Heroes and Villains’ Revue to Aid Ukrainians

Seasoned Villages performers will present a collection of classic tunes from popular musicals.

By LEAH SHEWMAKER
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Professional performers’ voices will emanate from the stage in “Broadway Heroes & Villains,” give audiences the chance to make a statement in support of Ukraine.

The show will center around the theme of good versus evil, with Mary Jo Vitale, Pinky Bigley, Kathleen Kane, Mark Kirschenbaum, Bob Stehman and Tim Casey from SMASH productions singing hit Broadway’s tunes.

And while the cast and crew look forward to performing, much of the anticipation about this show comes from the knowledge that proceeds from ticket sales will help support The Rotary Club of the Villages Foundation’s Ukraine Relief Fund.

“We’re very excited for this,” said show producer Susan Feinberg. “SMASH Productions has a tradition of giving to charities from our very first show. It’s important to me as producer and leader, but it’s also important to the directors and cast. It makes us feel good that were helping in the community.”

Feinberg said she hopes the show will sell out, not only because she believes everyone will love it, but also so the organization can give a big donation.

Audiences can see the show at 3 and 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at Savannah Center.

Tickets start at \$30 and can be purchased at thevillagesentertainment.com or any Villages Box Office locations.

“When we started, believe it or not, we had to cull it down from 100 songs,” said Feinberg, of the Village of Pennecamp.

She said it was helpful many of the cast were familiar with Broadway shows like “Les Misérables,” “Annie,” “Mamma Mia” and the “Phantom of the Opera.”

The cast will perform tunes they know inside and out, but they also are having fun learning new duets and ensembles from “Chicago” and



Choreographer Barbara Byers, left, works with Pinky Bigley and Mary Jo Vitale in preparation for Smash Production’s “Broadway Heroes & Villains.”

even “Shrek” and “Aladdin.”

Audiences also will hear a taste of future Smash Productions shows like “Little Shop of Horrors,” starring Bigley and Kirschenbaum.

Pinky Bigley, of the Village of DeSoto, spent 20 years doing professional theater, performing in shows such as “Annie,” “42nd Street” and others. She took part in a national tour of “Les Misérables” as Cosette and Eponine. She also was in an international tour of “Evita.”

Residents may recognize Bigley from her performance in The Villages Theater Company’s production of “Beauty and the Beast.”

“It’s amazing working with so many talented residents,” Bigley said. “Everyone is out here doing what they love—often for charity. We’re in a position to do that in our lives now.”

Casey, of the Village of

Chitty Chatty, said all the performers in the cast are able to bring the music to life.

“They’re not just great singers, but are performing the character, and that’s something the audience will enjoy,” he said. “It’s fun watching everybody move from character to character. Some of these songs are villains, or they have to be comedic or the hero. It requires actors/singers to switch on a dime.”

Casey also will perform in the production.

He studied theater and television during college but spent his later career in technology, doing theater on the side.

“One of the things I wanted to to in retirement was get into theater again,” Casey said. “The Villages allowed me to rekindle that. It helped me step up my own game because I’m working with professionals who’ve done this for

many years.”

Both Casey and Stehman said they are enjoying the collaborative process of putting the show together.

“It’s fun because not only do I respect Tim as a professional actor and director, but we’re also friends,” said Stehman, of the Village of Bonita. “There are a lot of creative juices

between us. We expand on each others’ ideas.”

Stehman brings his experience of working in regional theaters, performing in groups like Signature and Kamotion, and even working as an extra in television shows.

“We have a strong cast with experienced people,” Stehman

said. “Also, we have a variety of music. There will be a lot of familiar songs, and some of the songs you decide for yourself, ‘was that a hero or a villain?’ Some are clear cut, like Ursula, but some of these characters are just trying to survive or are thrust into situations surrounded by heroes or villains.”

LIVE A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER LIFESTYLE.

- Hormone Therapy (Men and Women)
- Aesthetic Fillers and Injectables
- Pain Injections
- Medical Weight Loss
- Plastic Surgery
- Vitamin IV Therapy

Schedule a Free Consultation Today! 352-512-9996

Dr. Steve Tieche, MD
RechargeTheVillages.com
809 Co. Rd. 466, Suite 303, Lady Lake, FL 32159

ALL ABOUT ESTATE PLANNING: FREE WORKSHOP

Wills | Trust | Estate Planning
Probate & Trust Administration

Audra M. Platt, Attorney

PITTMAN
LAW OFFICE

thepittmanlawoffice.com
3854 E. CR 466 | Oxford, Florida 34484

LOCATION

MidFlorida Credit Union
2285 Parr Drive (CR 466),
The Villages, FL 32162

DATE & TIME

Tuesday, September 20 at 9:30 am

HOSTED BY

SOUTHEAST
TRUST COMPANY

Investments are NOT FDIC Insured; NOT deposits, obligations of, or guaranteed by any bank; and may lose value

Better Business Bureau®
Accredited Business — A+ Rating

Custom Windows
AND EXTERIOR DESIGN, INC.
EST. 1987

FALL IN LOVE with a beautiful glass lanai enclosure

Over 19,000+ Satisfied Customers

Cabana Series
Tempered Glass
Panels available in
2-, 3- and 4-track
configurations for
maximum air flow.

Closed, Quiet & Clean

Open to Nature's Goodness

Closed, Quiet and Clean

Open to Maximize Airflow

Keep Out Rain, Dirt, Dust, Cold, Mold, Mildew & Pollen! Find Us Online @ Customwindowsrus.com

Bella Series
When only the best will do!
Never lose your view!

Visit Our Showroom, Explore Our Gallery and Discover the Design Perfect for Your Lifestyle!

352-787-9797
3606 Parkway Blvd., Leesburg (CR44)
Showroom Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SERVING LAKE & SUMTER COUNTIES
STATE LICENSE # SCC056672

12 MONTHS SAME AS CASH FINANCING AVAILABLE