

LAST RESORT PLAYERS LAUNCH MOON SHOT

"Moon Over Buffalo" Review

BY BURNIE GARELICK

While NASA and Elon Musk talk about it, the Last Resort Players (LRP) made the moon shot-and landed in Buffalo, where the bison don't roam and the skies have been snowy this week.

Actually, LRP stayed home in Florence and rode blazing saddles to the Florence Events Center flat floor stage to tread the boards in a farcical comedy, "Moon Over Buffalo." Written by the incorrigible Ken Ludwig, contemporary living playwright and recipient of tons of awards and accolades, the show pulls out all the stops and pops the corks in a madcap wrestling match spoofing theater, movies, parents, children, love, marriage — and eight or nine months short of a baby carriage.

"Moon Over Buffalo" is a verbal dance of parries and

thrusts and a literal bash of swords directed by a fencing choreographer, Florence's elegant pianist Jennifer Weir.

Ironically, "Moon Over Buffalo" has nothing to do with the moon. All the action takes place during the day, morning and afternoon, and indoors, in the shabby green room at an old theater in Buffalo, New York.

Plot-wise, in a nutshell, George and Charlotte Hay are longtime troupers who ply their trade in the provinces but never quite make the big time — like the Lunts, Katharine Cornell, Ronald Colma, Greer Garson and Frank Capra. "Moon Over Buffalo" is set in the 1950s, so if you're not yet a member of AARP, ask Google to illuminate the allusions.

But "Moon Over Buffalo" is no SAT test. There are plenty of generic laughs and lots of slapstick and pratfalls. After all, when the set includes five prominent doors, you know you're in for some slamming stage antics.

In Buffalo, the Hays are performing "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "Private Lives" in repertory. Imagine Rostand's poet with the enormous proboscis

addressing Noel Coward's sophisticated newlyweds on a seaside balcony in France. Throw in an officious mother-in-law, a daughter averse to the theater, a fiancé, an ex-fiancé, a lawyer suitor and a pregnant pause, and you've got a spaced-out shuttle that shoots the moon.

LRP space cadets and their director, Paula Lindekugel-Willis, have a fine time navigating this show without gravity.

John Bachmann is intoxicating and intoxicated as Bard-spouting George with a side order of extramarital pulchritude.

Judy Adams plays it straight as long-suffering Charlotte mooning over her wish to be a movie star, yearning for normalcy, and enjoying slaps and tickles from George.

Daphne John is delightful as Charlotte's backstage mother, Ethel, with a tongue as sharp as her needle and hearing or not, as she chooses.

Karylenn Keppol is perfectly at ease on stage, even though her character, Rosalind, prefers to be far, far away.

Grant Harmond is the glee-

fully innocent Howard, Rosalind's fiancé and a weatherman as enamored of the green room as the meteorological green screen.

Victoria Seitzinger is demure as ingénue Eileen, who finds herself in the family way.

Jim Wellington is wonderfully manic as Paul, Rosalind's ex-fiancé who relishes the bite of the acting bug.

Chuck Knorr is dapper as Richard, the wealthy lawyer with tailored suits and eyes for Charlotte.

The inimitable Noel Coward wrote a song entitled "Why Must The Show Go On?" "Moon Over Buffalo" is a hoot that delivers a spoonful of laughter that is as essential as a day of sunshine in this month of monsoons.

"Moon Over Buffalo" is full of fun. Just ask the man who lives there — in the Moon, not Buffalo.

The show continues this weekend, March 24 and 25 at 7 p.m. and March 26, at 2 p.m. at the Florence Events Center, 715 Quince St. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit eventcenter.org or call 541-997-1994.



Three Rivers Casino Resort (TRC) will present the Brian Odell Band at Blue Bills Sports Bar and Tap Room Friday, March 24, and Saturday, March 25, from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The Brian Odell Band is an American rock band whose roots are firmly grounded in funk, fusion, rock, jazz and folk. Blue Bills is located inside TRC, which is located at 5647 Highway 126.

Introduction to 'Sacred Dances' at FUUF Saturday

World-renowned teacher of sacred dance and dharma, Prema Desara, is the creatrix of profound dance practices that are a vehicle of empowerment that call forth from participants their highest expression of wisdom, compassion and power.

No dance or dharma experience is required. Teens, men and women are welcome.

A \$21 donation requested

but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The presentation will be held Saturday, March 25, at 5:30 p.m., at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF), 87735 Highway 101, at Heceta Beach Road.

For more information, email Denise Weatherwax at deniseweatherwax@gmail.com or call 541-999-7537.

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