

North Riverside Recreation Community Theater
Presents

Gypsy

Directed by John Nasca
Engagement Opens April 25, 2008

Gypsy Struts into North Riverside!

North Riverside, IL – The North Riverside Recreation Community Theater’s (NRRCT) latest musical, *Gypsy*, tells the melodramatic tale of an aggressive stage mother and her two daughters as they cross the United States in search of stardom during the demise of vaudeville and the birth of burlesque.

Gypsy is based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the famous burlesque artist, and focuses on her mother, Rose, the ultimate show business mother. The classic 1959 production starred Ethel Merman as the quintessential stage mother clawing her way through vaudeville to make her daughters stars. Often called “the greatest American Musical”, *Gypsy* has many songs that became popular standards, such as “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” and “Let Me Entertain You”. *Gypsy* won several Tony awards and has enjoyed numerous revivals on Broadway. Arthur Laurents’ book captures the sometimes funny, sometimes sad, moments of life in show biz. And with Stephen Sondheim’s lyrics and Jule Styne’s music, any *Gypsy* audience is in for a treat.

Director John Nasca agrees that not only is the *Gypsy* musical score one of the finest ever written for the American theater, but the script could even stand on its own without the music. “A show like *Gypsy* needs very good actors who can also sing and dance,” notes Nasca. “For me, this is a dream cast with amazing actors, each perfectly suited to his or her role. I would not be able to find any better.”

Nasca directed *Moon Over Buffalo* (Fall 2004) for NRRCT. His many other directing and costuming credits include *The Women*, *Rigalleto* and *On the Waterfront*. The musical director for NRRCT’s production of *Gypsy* is Michael Barr, who has been musical director and/or conductor on numerous NRRCT’s productions including *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The World Goes Round*, and *Grease*. The choreographer for *Gypsy* is Shawn Quinlan, his first production with North Riverside. His many other credits include *Into the Woods*, *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Caged Dames*.

The cast includes Michelle McKenzie-Voigt (Mama Rose) from Evanston, Bernadett York (Louise) from Algonquin, Jim Heatherly (Herbie) from Bloomingdale, Marie Clawson (Dainty June), Michael Barr, Dominic Boyte, Anna Karas, Albert Lam, Shawn Quinlan, and Lainie Williams from Chicago, Olivia Landa, Leslie Lee, Frank Petrovic and Jim Votava from North Riverside, Rebecca Black, Chelsea Goldsmith, Liz Johnson, Sue Matulionis, Sofia Soluri and Jessica Van Winkle from Riverside, Matthew Garcia from Berwyn, Katelyn Smith from Broadview, Miranda Molina from Brookfield, Diana Soriano, Evelyn Soriano and Miguel Zarzoza from Cicero, John Ernst and Bridget

Foley from LaGrange, Diane Kelley, Emily Swanson and Owen Swanson from LaGrange Park, Jarrah Korba from Lake Forest, Brian Ott from Naperville, Kelly Sandoval from Oak Park, and Carol Dinucci from Westchester.

Gypsy opens on Friday, April 25th and continues through Sunday, May 4th at the North Riverside Village Commons located at 2401 S. Des Plaines Avenue, North Riverside, Illinois. Performances will be Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:00pm. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and students with ID, and \$7 for children under 12. Group rates are also available. For tickets, call Andy at 708-343-7527.

The North Riverside Recreation Community Theater (www.nrrct.com) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1989 with the goal of expanding appreciation of the arts by presenting quality theater at affordable prices. Since its inception, the group has produced 32 shows, ranging from time-honored classics such as Oklahoma and The Wizard of Oz, to modern shows such as Grease and Godspell, to six original scripts written by NRRCT members.