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S.F. teen theater turns 30 with 'Fiddler'

By John C. Sulak

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COURTESY PHOTO

Noalani Victorio plays the Fiddler and Noah Keith plays Tevye in Young People's Teen Musical Theater Company's production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Young People's Teen Musical Theater Company is opening its 30th anniversary season this week with "Fiddler on the Roof," a show about tradition.

Though previous seasons have included edgier fare such as "Rent," "The Rocky Horror

Show” and Stephen Sondheim’s “Assassins,” YPTMTC director Nicola Bosco-Alvarez is celebrating tradition with the classic 50-year-old show, whose themes, she says, remain relevant today: “I think a lot of people can connect to what the family goes through at the end – being forced out of a city they love. Living in San Francisco has become increasingly difficult.”

The show, featuring 22 young adults and a seven-piece band, runs for two weekends at San Francisco’s Randall Museum, sharing the building with Randall’s menagerie of owls, snakes and raccoons.

YPTMTC, which is sponsored by the S.F. Recreation and Parks Department, is for students who don’t have performing arts programs in their schools, or maybe just don’t fit in. Through the decades, the company has stayed true to its original conception. Bosco-Alvarez says, “We give young adults a place to grow and get in touch with themselves.”



Members range in age from 13 to 19 and anyone can audition.

Families attending the show also get a break, too. Tickets for “Fiddler” cost about the same as movie tickets and there’s free parking.

Patrons even might witness a performance by a future Broadway star. Many past company members are now working professionally. Lena Hall, who was an active YPTMTC performer, originated the role of Nicola in “Kinky Boots” on Broadway and won a 2014 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her role in “Hedwig and the Angry Inch.”

But for Bosco-Alvarez, honors like that are not the main point. She says, “You never know who is going to be the next Lena Hall. You come to see these kids do amazing work! What goes on after that is up to them and to the universe.”

IF YOU GO

Fiddler on the Roof

Presented by Young People’s Teen Musical Theatre Company

Where: Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, S.F.

When: 7:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays; closes Feb. 8

Tickets: \$10 to \$15

Contact: (415) 554-9523, www.yptmtc.org, www.brownpapertickets.com

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