



M.A.D. THEATRE OF TAMPA INC.

M.A.D. Times

“Personals”

Love Through Advertising?

M.A.D. Theatre’s next production is the musical comedy revue *PERSONALS*, a funny but often painful search for true love. Based on the trials and tribulations of dating through personal ads (akin to today’s popular online dating), *PERSONALS* was written by “Friends” creators Marta Kauffman and David Crane, who along with Seth Friedman, drew on the talents of composers Alan Menken (*Little Shops of Horrors* and *Beauty and the Beast*) Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*) and others.

The cast, six energetic talents, employs keen singing and acting versatility to portray a mixed bag of comical characters. Don’t look for Monica, Rachel, Ross or Joey at the coffee shop. Instead, meet Louis who needs instruction tapes to help him approach women; Sam, whose life is empty when he is single; Kim, who regrets divorcing her husband; Claire, who has built a brick wall against society since her boyfriend left her; and the Typesetter, who needs a transvestite dwarf to bring “A Little Happiness” into his life, along with a parade of potential Mr. and Ms. Rights and a few yentas.

“This production is reminiscent of MAD Theatre’s earlier shows—it’s edgy, somewhat risqué, and a far cry from our last show, *Annie*,” according to Ken Basque who is directing *PERSONALS*. “It is hilarious, but very honest and deals with issues that all of us can relate to, whether we’ve found our mate or are still looking.”

Within the cast, opinions about personal ads and online dating run the gamut. Actor Stephanie LaBohn met her husband-to-be digitally when her aunt supplied the email address “of a really nice guy here in Tampa” to the then Philadelphia resident. Following a rather brief, online courtship, the smitten couple met in person to seal the deal. According to LaBohn, “It was more pleasant than the standard smoke-filled barroom scene. There was no awkward first-date or uneasy first phone calls...online I really got to know him. I fell in love with him before we physically met.”

Actor Kelly Schonmann agreed with the ease of striking up a relationship without needing to “dress-up”. “Online you are faceless, and most comfortable to be your true self.” Ironically, while chatting anonymously online a former boyfriend recognized her “personality” and the two have rekindled a meaningful friendship.

Twenties-something actor Stephen Riordan disagrees, describing personals ads and online dating as “scary.” “I had at least three bad experiences. One date posted a photo from high school that, upon our meeting, I would have to guess was taken at least 30 years ago! Another had just lost a lot of weight and proceeded to spend the whole evening sharing weight-loss tips. It was hard to enjoy my dinner!” Be sure to join us for this fun romp through the personal ads!



Kelly Schonmann



Janine Traycheff



Stephanie LaBohn



Stephen Riordan



D.J. Holt



Craig Hartfield

Performance Schedule February 2005

Date	Lunch/Show	Dinner/Show
Friday 11th		7 pm / 8 pm
Saturday 12th	3 pm / 4 pm	7 pm / 8 pm
Sunday 13th	3 pm / 4 pm	7 pm / 8 pm
Friday 18th		7 pm / 8 pm
Saturday 19th	3 pm / 4 pm	7 pm / 8 pm
Sunday 20th	3 pm / 4 pm	7 pm / 8 pm
Friday 25th		7 pm / 8 pm
Saturday 26th	3 pm / 4 pm	7 pm / 8 pm
Sunday 27th	3 pm / 4 pm	

Restaurant Performance Location

**iViva
La Frida!**

Fine Mexican Cuisine
5901 N. Florida Ave, Tampa

Admission

	Dinner/Show Reservations Required	Show Only Reservations Recommended
Gen Admission	\$30.00	\$15.00
Seniors/Students	\$29.00	\$14.00
Groups 10+	\$27.00	\$12.00
Per Couple	\$55.00	\$25.00

Reservations: Online at www.madtheatre.com or by calling the box office at 813-884-6500

MAD
MUSIC
DANCE
THEATRE OF TAMPA, INC



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Tampa, FL 33685

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Email: info@madtheatre.com
Website: www.madtheatre.com

RAGTIME
THE MUSICAL

Auditions: March 21, 22, 24, 2005

More information in the next issue!

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ASHER DANCE ECLECTIC: DRIVEN



If you have not yet seen Asher Dance Eclectic, this is the time to go! And if you've previously experienced this Tampa based dance company, you will be "floored" by their newest, most adventurous and risk-taking collection of works.

This is contemporary dance that appeals to all people, all ages, and whether you are an avid dance fan or have never even considered seeing a dance performance - there is something to suit all audiences. You will witness an eclectic array of dance pieces such as the humorous ballet piece that is constantly interrupted by the dancers' children; a fast-

paced, sexy, modern-jazz dance using doors on wheels in ways you can't imagine; and even a musical theatre number with live singing from the Broadway hit, "Wild Party", that will blow you away!

Choreographers include USF dance professor, Merry Lynn Morris, USF dance alumnus, Marlo Hilton, and Asher Dance Eclectic's artistic director, Elizabeth Edelson. A special guest from Miami will be Karen Peterson & Dancers. They will perform two of their repertory works. Karen Peterson is a forerunner in the field of mixed-ability dance. Her Miami-based company began in 1989 and now has over 60 works in their repertory performing internationally.



Performance Information

March 12-13, 2005 at 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

University of South Florida
College of Visual & Performing Arts Theatre 1
4202 E. Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL

Admission

General Admission: \$15.00
Students/Seniors 55+/Children: \$14.00
Groups of 10+: \$12.00

Reserve your tickets today by calling 813-884-6500 or online at www.madtheatre.com