DIVERSIONARY THEATRE PRESENTS 2.5 MIN RIDE & WELL

We got to talk with directors Kym Pappas and Rosina Reynolds (“Well” and “2.5 Minute Ride”, respectively) and Diversionary’s executive director Matt Morrow this past weekend, just before their plays went into final rehearsal. The shows are in preview right now and are opening officially on February 17 and 18. Enter to win a pair of tickets to both shows with the link at the end of the interview!

Matt is in his second season at Diversionary as the executive director (think ‘producer’) and knew this season had to be different than previous ones. After reading that only 17% of all plays produced in the US were written by women (women make up half of the US population), he knew he had to dedicate this season to women artists. Once he realized most of the plays he had read recently were written by men, he knew his decision was the right one.

Samantha Ginn as "Lisa" in Well & Shana Wride as "Lisa" in 2.5 Minute Ride.
Photo courtesy of Simpatika and Diversionary Theatre

As for Lisa Kron's work, Matt loves her work and considers her one of the most innovative playwrights in America right now, and believes that Kron deserves much more recognition.

Lisa Kron's plays are just as important today as when '2.5 Minute Ride' opened in San Diego back in 1996. '2.5 Minute Ride', as Rosina says, is about the culture collision of Kron's family, of her mother's Midwestern family and her father, a Jewish German refugee from WWII. This one-person show gives the audience a 'complete' family picture and the audience will learn about Kron's influences through 3 interconnected stories.

Kym also believes that Kron's stories are necessary right now, and she believes that audiences will come away from these shows feeling that they "are part of something bigger, and that they are important and necessary in the world".

"The audience," Kym said, "is as much a part of the play as the characters on stage."

The cast of Well: Tiffany Tang, Durwood Murray, Samantha Ginn, Annie Hinton, Cashae Monya and Adam Cuppy. Photo courtesy of Simpatika and Diversionary Theatre

Matt knows that each theater has to do their own part: "What we do here makes a difference; our work this season heightens awareness of representation in theater. You have to be aware of your own biases, and you have to work at them." Kym agreed with Matt, and added, while this is an overarching issue in the national theater world, each company, each person "only has control over our own community", and change must come from there.

Kym said she feels "lucky" to be working with Diversionary Theatre because as scary or uncertain as the world can be, she knows that theater gives her focus. She believes that theater teaches us to "show up, know your neighbors, and care for each other".

Beyond this, Matt says that theater empowers the actors and audiences through charged, shared experiences. “You can slip in important themes and issues that you can’t necessarily bring in otherwise,” ideas that can bring communities together in an immediacy that other art forms don’t always have.

Shana Wride as "Lisa" in 2.5 Minute Ride. Photo courtesy of Simpatika and Diversionary Theatre

Rosina had a lot to say about the imbalance of gender in theater. “Plays,” she said, “are seen as being written and run by men.” She continued, saying that women’s points of view are missing from theater or become secondary to the main (male) character. “What we need are more women writers and, once they exist, need more opportunity to be represented. Theaters are responsible for reaching out to these writers.”
“Women need to be encouraged to be writers, to be heard, to be told that their stories are needed,” Rosina told me. “If a man is telling the story, actresses are stuck in secondary roles. Women must take charge and be aggressive on promoting our point of view.”

If you have always wanted to work in theater, especially if you’re a woman, listen closely:

1) Find your community and keep doing the work you want to do.

2) You have to give yourself permission, say yes to yourself, and show up and make it happen.

3) Always believe that you are "the one who will break the barrier’. Always remember that your voice is important and someone will hear you.

The cast of Well. Photo courtesy of Simpatika and Diversionary Theatre

Use the code **DOSD5** at check out for $20 admission or try your luck and enter to win a pair of tickets to both shows!

WIN A PAIR OF TICKETS TO DIVERSIONARY THEATRE'S "2.5 MINUTE RIDE" & "WELL" 28 2
DIVERSIONARY THEATRE EVENT PAGE

FEATURED EVENTS

LATEST FROM DOSD

RSVP FOR FREE ADMISSION TO ROTFL AT THE LOFT!

PHOTO GALLERY: FIDLAR

SPOOKTOBER WITH PINBACK

WILD WILD WETS - SONIC SAN DIEGO

HAUNT IT UP: THE MOST HAUNTED PLACES IN SAN DIEGO

VIEW ALL

FEATURED EVENTS

FEATURED VENUES

BELLY UP TAVERN

29 OCT — ERIC HUTCHINSON & THE BELIEVERS: THE MODERN HAPPINESS TOUR W/ JEREMY MESSERSMITH
8:00PM

31 OCT — HALLOWEEN HEAT FT. 80S HEAT AND BELLA LUX DANCE CREW
8:00PM

1 NOV — AN EVENING WITH JIM JAMES SOLO TOUR
8:30PM

2 NOV — ATOMIC GROOVE HAPPY HOUR
5:30PM

2 NOV — THE MOTET W/ THE DIP
9:00PM

3 NOV — BETAMAXX W/ PAGING THE 90'S
9:00PM

4 NOV — WILLIE K W/ KALEO PHILLIPS
8:00PM

LATEST FROM DOSD

- RSVP for free admission to ROTFL at The Loft!
- Photo Gallery: FIDLAR
- Spooktober with Pinback
- Wild Wild Wets - Sonic San Diego
- Haunt It Up: The Most Haunted Places in San Diego

VIEW ALL

WIN FREE TICKETS

01. The Adicts
02. Not So Silent Night
03. Soda Bar Presents Hellogoodbye
04. Tom Segura: Take It Down Tour
05. Pepper

VIEW ALL GIVEAWAYS

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01. Win Stuff
02. Top Shows
03. Free Events
04. Just Announced
05. San Diego Venues
06. Artists in San Diego

DOSD TASTEMAKERS

01. YEW!
02. The Whistle Stop
03. Xavier Hernandez
04. DoSD Intern
05. Get Active This Thanksgiving!

VIEW ALL TASTEMAKERS

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TOP 10 FOOD VENDORS AT KAABOO 2018 MUST SEE ARTISTS AT KAABOO 2018

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