



Tuesday, January 6, 2004

Small-town comedy 'Greater Tuna' to hit MBT stage

The sidesplitting citizens of Tuna, Texas, are the subjects of "Greater Tuna," a hilarious comedy that runs Wednesday, Jan. 7, through Sunday, Feb. 1, at **Meadow Brook Theatre**. The play takes place in Texas' third smallest town where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies.

The production has plenty of "Tex" appeal for all audiences. If you've ever lived in a small town then you may already know the residents of Tuna. They have names like Aunt Pearl, Reverend Spikes, Maxie Bovine and Vera Carp, are narrow-minded, loving, self-righteous, insecure, sincere and ridiculous. They're also portrayed by only two performers, making this satire on life in rural American even more delightful.

Staged by award-winning director John Manfredi, this laugh-a-minute visit down south features Meadow Brook Theatre favorites Paul Hopper and Thomas Mahard, who bring life and humanity to more than 20 characters, including the leader of the Tuna Smut Snatchers Squad and five-time pet of the week Yippy Yi- Yi -Yea.

"The play is very funny, from beginning to end," Manfredi said. "What makes it so amusing is the fact that you can find elements of everybody in the characters. There's also some amazingly quick costume changes – some of them are less than four seconds long. The actors play everybody, from men and women to dogs and cats. Another interesting thing is that all the music for this production was done by our in-house band. It's a good time about a warm place."

Tickets for "Greater Tuna" and Meadow Brook Theatre's 2003-04 season can be obtained by calling the MBT Box Office from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday at (248) 377-3300 or by visiting the **Meadow Brook Theatre** Web site. Tickets also are available at all **Ticketmaster** outlets. Senior, student and group discounts are available with tickets starting under \$20.

SUMMARY

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