

## Play Review

## Noel Coward play 'Private Lives' is perfectly produced

"Private Lives," a revival of the comedy by Noel Coward. Now playing at the International City Theatre, 300 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, through Sept. 18, 436-4610, [www.International-CityTheatre.org](http://www.International-CityTheatre.org); ticket prices: \$37-\$44.

by Larry Blake  
LW contributor

In the early 20th century, Noel Coward was one of the most prolific writers. His plays and musicals celebrated life and reflected on his madcap and care-free lifestyle. A majority of his work has faded with time. One of his plays that will probably never fade is the witty comedy, "Private Lives," now being presented in a near perfect production at International City Theatre (ICT) in Long Beach.

The setting is 1930 on the French Riviera. We see two adjoining balconies that overlook the Mediterranean Sea of a luxurious hotel. There are two hotel suites. In the hotel suite on the left are newlyweds Elyot (Freddy Douglas) and Sybil (Jennice Butler) Chase. Occupying the suite on the right are newlyweds Amanda (Caroline Kinsolving) and Victor (Adam J. Smith) Prynne. All should be sublime in this romantic setting. But there is a wrinkle. We quickly learn that Elyot and Amanda were married and have been divorced for five years. We also learn that it was a marriage of fighting and quarreling with neither willing to compromise.

It becomes obvious to the audience almost immediately that Amanda and Elyot have made mistakes in their second marriage mates. Neither Victor nor Sybil is a match for the wit and repartee dished out by Amanda and Elyot. Eventually Amanda and Elyot realize their mistake and that they are still in love with each other. And yet, they still bicker and quarrel.

Amanda and Elyot come up with a plan. Whenever their bickering starts to erupt into a brawl, one of them says a catch phrase, "Solomon Isaacs," and then they must be silent for a few minutes until the storm is over, and they are back lovingly embracing each other.

Amanda and Elyot declare their love and leave poor Sybil and Victor in the south of France. Act Two is in Amanda's apart-



Carolyn Kinsolving and Freddy Douglas

ment in Paris, where the lovebirds are in blissful romantic heaven, well, for about five minutes. There is a seesaw battle between these two that finally erupts into a fight with furniture and vases being thrown. Then Victor and Sybil enter, and it appears that the married couples will reunite. But of course they don't, and the play ends humorously with Amanda and Elyot escaping once more as the lights go out.

I have seen other productions of this play with the role of Amanda played by Tammy Grimes, Maggie Smith and Elizabeth Taylor. It is a role that an actress dreams of playing. Here, Amanda is played by Caroline

Kinsolving in a performance that more than holds up against the previously mentioned ladies. You can see what Amanda is thinking every moment in Kinsolving's performance.

The quartet of actors is wonderful under Luke Yankee's confident direction. Pulling off this kind of comedy of manners takes a certain discipline. Freddy Douglas is a suave Elyot. Jennice Butler as Sybil and Adam J. Smith as Victor portray annoying characters that you can only wish on each other. Add the stylish costumes by Kim DeShazo and an eye-candy set by Kurt Boetcher, and you have a superior production of "Private Lives."

## Community Karaoke

## Walt Bier hosted Aug. 31 session

More than 60 people attended the weekly karaoke session on Aug. 31 in Clubhouse 1. They were hosted by Walt Bier, who started the entertainment with a fine rendition of "Everybody Loves Somebody Some Time." There were 22 singers, including a couple of duets. The Sebbos began their song with a little dance, and it was greatly appreciated by the audience who applauded loudly. Everybody had a chance to sing two songs, and most singers did. The evening ended at 8:20 p.m.

Singers who arrive early should give song requests to Joe Sabroso. To sing, people must pay \$5 dues to Paul Salay or Pat Kogok, you want to sing. Then step up and sing. The dues are a bargain and help defray club costs.

Bob and Galit Levy-Slater conduct training sessions on Tuesday afternoons at 1 in Clubhouse 6.

The Karaoke Club's parties are held in Clubhouse 1 every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. Everybody gets a chance to sing two songs in a friendly atmosphere. The clubhouse is spacious enough for dancing. Everyone is invited. People may either sign up and sing, dance or just listen to the Leisure World talent.

—Paul Salay

## Leisure Whirlers

## Bruce Jackson will call squares

The Leisure World Whirler Square Dance Club dances from 6:30-9 p.m. on Fridays in Clubhouse 4. This week, Bruce Jackson will call the squares, and the round dance cuer will be Howard Delcambre.

The Whirler round dance class is held Thursdays from 1-4 p.m. in Clubhouse 6. The class is cued by Howard Delcambre and features cha cha, rumba, waltz and fox trot.

On Sept. 16, the caller will be Skip Stanley, and the round dances will be cued by Anita Froehlich.

Visitors are welcome.

—John Bertetto

## Sunday Night Ballroom

## Jazz Night featured No Name Band

The No Name Band, fronted by Carol Robinson, was center stage when the Sunday Night Ballroom Dance Group arrived for jazz night on Sept. 4. Dancers were on the floor—from the first downbeat of their theme song "Satin Doll," and the introduction of Terry Humphrey and Anita Scott, to the last note of the brass section.

Kudos to all.

The decorating team of Carmen Johnson, Louise Lambden and Art Schwartz were back at work to create a jazz club out of Clubhouse 4. After a delicious supper, the group was ready for maestros Chuck and Diane Burnett dance music.

Calendar:

\*Sept. 11: Grandparents Day and Night in the Sun. Grandparents are invited to bring photos of their wonderful offspring or people can bring pictures of where they went on vacation this summer. Pictures will be shared around the tables. Reservations and cancellations are required by calling 925-3833 or 598-4056. Deadline to make reservations is Friday night.

—Marge Archibald

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