

arts & entertainment news

CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



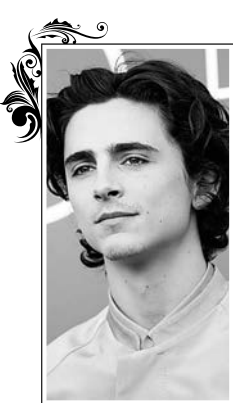
KERRY WASHINGTON

The actress shed her fiercely private persona on Thursday by tweeting out a phone number supposedly to reconnect with her fans and followers. When texted, she'll send back links and sneak peeks.



KEVIN HART

The Actor-comedian has been injured in the crash of a vintage muscle car. A California Highway Patrol report says the 40-year-old was a passenger in a 1970 Plymouth Barracuda that went off Mulholland Highway in Malibu.



TIMOTHÉE CHALAMET

Already one of the most acclaimed young actors working today, Chalamet says the prospect of playing young Henry V in "The King" was terrifying. He was drawn to the project simply because he was out of his wheelhouse.



LOS ANGELES

Tamron Hall Channels Mike Douglas for New Talk Show

John Lennon, Yoko Ono, Muhammad Ali and Sly Stone had a lot to do with Tamron Hall landing the job as the host of a new daytime talk show. Hall used clips of those big names appearing on "The Mike Douglas Show," a talk show that started in 1961, as the basis of her chat show. She has been a longtime fan of Douglas and is convinced that his show became the blueprint for daytime gabbers that followed.

— The Associated Press

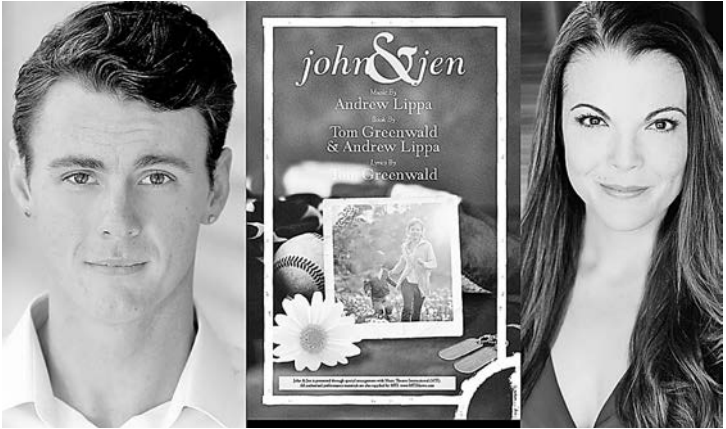
BACKSTAGE PASS

Insights on stage, screen and beyond.

‘John & Jen’ To Open Season Four At The Studio Theatre

By KRISTEN FIORE

Daily Sun Senior Writer



Submitted photo

Tickets are on sale now for "John & Jen," the opening show of season four at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol. "John & Jen" runs Sept. 24 through Oct. 27.

Set against the changing political climate of the 1950s through 1990s, "John & Jen" explores family relationships and how they are affected by differing beliefs.

It is the opening title of season four at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, and it opens for previews Sept. 24 and runs until Oct. 27.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

The theme for season four is breaking through the political divide, and this show tackles just that.

John and Jen are a brother and sister with a close sibling relationship, but as they grow older and develop different beliefs, they have a harder time understanding each other.

"It's one of the most truly humanizing stories I've ever seen presented in a musical," said Kelly Morris Rowan, who plays Jen in the show.

Act two of the musical focuses on an older Jen's relationship with her son, who she names John, after her brother.

Craig Smith plays both Johns in the show.

"Both have their own similarities and differences to each other," Smith said. "The brother definitely has an arc of

trying to find who he is but falls into the shadow of what his father expects him to be, while the son finds his struggle living in the shadow of his uncle."

The show is an intimate, two-person musical with music by Andrew Lippa.

Jeremy Seghers, director of the show, said "John & Jen" is almost entirely music, with few spoken scenes.

"What I love about it is that even though the story takes place over multiple decades, the music does not try to evoke those decades," Seghers said.

"Less self-confident composers would try to emulate the sound of those eras and it would be cheesy. This sticks with a sound that's true to the show and consistent all the way through."

For that reason, Seghers also is excited about the show's design element.

"Because it takes place in so many time periods, the design team and I are coming up with a visual language that isn't specific to one time period or any time period," he said. "It takes place in a world that's going to be very familiar and

feel very inviting so people can hopefully think about their own relationships and reaching out."

The cast hopes that "John & Jen" will help the audience reflect on and embrace their own relationships.

"I hope that our audiences leave with an incentive to look at the relationships in their lives and to understand the value of those — to call that sibling they haven't talked to, to open up about that issue that was swept under the rug, to see how special and precious these connections are," Smith said. "Because, without these people in our lives, we are alone."

Morris Rowan also hopes the audience will be able to relate.

"I hope they see themselves or

some part of their lives in this show, in one way or another," Rowan said. "Whether it's as an older or a younger sibling, or as a parent or a child. I think the greatest gift that theater can give us is the chance to see

some part of our lives reflected on the stage."

Senior writer Kristen Fiore can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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