

Backstage Pass



INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

'Neighbors' At The Studio Explores Issues That Divide Us

HOW DO I BUY TICKETS?

The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at its four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

All box office locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spanish Springs: 970 Del Mar Drive

Lake Sumter Landing: 1070 Canal St.

Brownwood: 2726 Brownwood Blvd.

Savannah Center: 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd.

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Writer

"Neighbors: A Fair Trade Agreement," is unlike any show The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol has ever put on before.

Reality meets absurdity in "Neighbors," the second show of Season 4 at The Studio, which explores the relationship with two ordinary men with a lot of differences.

The show opens Friday and runs until Dec. 22.

"Neighbors" continues Season 4's theme of breaking ideological barriers and reaching across the divide.

And in the show, the physical divide is merely a creek that runs between the homes of neighbors Joe and José. The actual divide is within the neighbors themselves.

"José is a very passionate, driven individual," said

Alejandro Guevarez, who plays José in the show. "The way he sees the world around him is very simple in a complicated kind of way."

For José, family and friends are the priority.

"He is brutally honest in a frank and borderline prejudiced manner," Guevarez said. "His deceased son is still very present in his life, and he copes with that loss at the bottom of a bottle."



Submitted photo

The second show of Season 4 at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, "Neighbors: A Fair Trade Agreement," opens Friday.

Joe, on the other hand, is a red-blooded American man and proud of it, according to Kevin McKillip, who plays Joe.

"He is educated, wealthy, of high professional standing and a bit lost," McKillip said. "He's checked off all of the boxes in life that make him successful and happy. But he isn't happy. He's always done exactly what his father said, and now his wife is gone and he can't sleep at night."

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Neighbors helping Neighbors



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As the two men start learning more about each other, they learn more about themselves, as well.

“The question is: will they listen?” McKillip said.

Guevarez said he hopes the show communicates that while everyone has their own differences and issues, we should learn to laugh at ourselves and accept each other.

“Differences can divide us, but they can also make us stronger,” Guevarez said. “The key is learning to accept others for who they are and valuing the perspective they can bring to our life.”

McKillip said “Neighbors” has a range of emotions and depth: unbridled joy, indescribable grief and blinding rage.

“We’re presenting a story that is, at times, sweet, funny, sad, infuriating, jaw-dropping and ultimately thought-provoking,” he said.

Tickets for “Neighbors” are available online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Additionally, the writer of “Neighbors,” Bernardo Cubría, will come to The Studio for a discussion about the play at 4 p.m. Dec. 14.

Tickets are \$15, and it is recommended that patrons see the show before attending the discussion.