

Laughter is the only sure thing at updated “Rumors”

By Angela Covo
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A series of misunderstandings creates a hilarious set of circumstances in the newly updated version of Neil Simon's play “Rumors” starting at 8 p.m., July 16 at the Little Carver Civic Center. The play is a presentation of The Renaissance Guild (TRG) and Primadonna Productions (PDP).

The farce, originally set in the late 80's in New York City, was slightly changed to make it more relevant, Nikki Young, actor and co-producer, explained. “The mission of TRG is to create a diverse and multicultural experience for the cast, crew, and audience, so we updated the original version with a very diverse cast and new technology – the cell phone,” Young said.

She explained the team chose the play because everyone needs some comic relief today. “We are in a difficult time in our lives, and even though it's harder to make people laugh than cry, laughter is the best medicine,” Young added.

Indeed, Simon's play is a comedy of errors. A preposterous chain of events culminates in a gun injury and a missing person's case for the



Neil Simon's play “Rumors” has been updated with a modern twist for today's audiences.
(Courtesy Photo)

hosts of a New York party celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary. As guests descend on the scene, they are all drawn into a cover-up that sets up the most sidesplitting couple of hours in town.

“The show is ridiculously funny,” Louisette Zurita, who plays a principal role in the play, said. “I love the cast, and the comedic timing. Chadd has a soft hand in how he directs – and everyone takes direction so well,

which is very rare – we just gelled,” she added.

Young and Zurita recently worked together on Dora Peña's film, “Dream Healing.” Young, a film, television and theater actor, director, producer, publicist and acting coach, not only

plays a principal role, but works as co-producer through her company PDP. Young works very closely with PDP co-owner Chadd Green; although this is the first time he has directed her since college at Texas State University, where they both studied theater.

Both are very involved in the performing arts scene in San Antonio and even at the state level.

“Service is critical,” Young said. “Giving back your time, talent and skills strengthens the community and you – San Antonio is the biggest small town in America.”

Green directs the play, and the cast includes Dru Barcus, Nikki Young, TRG co-founder Danielle King, Charles Riley, Denise Swain, Barry Goettl, Louisette Zurita, Peter Guzman, and Stephen Weser.

See the play at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 4 p.m. on Sundays from

July 16 until Sunday, Aug. 1. Tickets are \$21 for general admission and \$17 for seniors, military, and students. Group discounts are available, and other discounts may apply.

For more information, visit TRG at the Web site at <http://www.therenaissancesguild.org>. For reservations, call (800) 745-3000 or visit ticketmaster.com. Pre-sale tickets are also available through (210) 656-0349.

San Antonio filmmaker's quest to inspire change

By Brianna Dimas

Lately, most of the heated debates in San Antonio surround the current controversy over the proposed DREAM Act and the new Arizona law SB1070, or the proposed Birthright Citizenship law.

Most of us can only discuss and rant to our friends and family about our opinions. However, if you are Pablo Veliz, you can get behind the camera and write a script that can “change people's hearts” as he says.

“I had a story to tell,” said Veliz, director, writer, producer and filmmaker, when asked why he started making films.

Veliz, 27 years old, just finished filming “Cartoneo y Nopalitos,” his fourth full-length feature film,

which he wrote and directed.

He said that the current storm of immigration controversy is striking the perfect chord for the film, however, it will not compel him to make an openly political film.

“In a very subtle and gentle way, the film will address injustice and unfairness in such laws and ideas. The film is not political, it's merely a tale of what happens,” he said.

“You see, it's illegal to be racist yet people still are. You can't expect to change people outright, but it is when the heart changes, that people begin to see things differently and we do that by making people realize racism is morally unacceptable, which is the approach that the film takes,” he added.

Veliz was originally introduced
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