

'Pride' musical hits the right notes

By Leslie Katz
S.F. Examiner Staff Writer

Has the time come for "Pride and Prejudice — The Musical"?

Fans of the Jane Austen classic likely will be pleased with the modest and charming adaptation by Bay Area-based Rita Abrams (music, lyrics) and Josie Brown (book) onstage in its North American premiere at Fort Mason's Southside Theater in The City.

The show, first staged in 2012 by the Ruislip Operatic Society in London, is presented by IM Theatre, a Marin community troupe whose players skillfully articulate the novel's early 19th century mores and morals, and lively, dense verbiage, which the writers lovingly retain.

It's truly an ensemble piece, from the funny opening "Welcome to Our Neighborhood" (which introduces the five unmarried Bennet sisters with the amusing invitation, "It would be our greatest gift if we could facilitate your felicity, especially if you're as wealthy as you look, sir") to the sentimental closing "I Wish You Joy!" (One fan in the audience even teared up at the inevitable unions between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy and Jane and Mr. Bingley.)

Each performer has a spotlight in the production, more of a chamber opera (with nice, catchy melodies) than full-fledged musical theater



COURTESY IM THEATRE

extravaganza.

The show's biggest drama comes in a power ballad by David Crane as Darcy (after he's rejected by Elizabeth), and Brittany Law as Elizabeth, as she comes to terms with her complicated feelings toward Darcy.

Kathy Deichen and Geoffrey Colton play the beleaguered Bennet parents with fine humor, and Chris Maltby and Juliet Heller display comic chops at Bennet associates Mr. and Mrs.

Collins, as does Sandi Rubay as the haughty Lady Catherine.

Lizzy Moss is a lovely Jane, to Kodo Elder-Groebe's affable Charles Bingley, and Kim Long gets her digs in as Bingley's sister Caroline.

While Lexie Papedo Gasparini directs with attention to detail, capturing Austen's spirit, the show (with a funny Act 1 and more serious Act 2) lacks a slam-bang dramatic arc and may not appeal to those unfamiliar

with the novel — or its TV, movie and stage versions (including musicals that never hit the mainstream).

The show is bolstered by classy period costumes by Deichen and Suzan Plath leading a savvy team, and the band's musical accompaniment: composer Abrams (of local fame for the 1970 novelty hit "Mill Valley") on keyboard, Andrew Klein on synthesizer, Mike Evans on percussion and Jeff Sherman on bass.

REVIEW: Pride and Prejudice—The Musical

Where: Southside Theater, Building D, Fort Mason, S.F. **When:** 7 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, 4 p.m. Sundays; closes Oct. 9 **Tickets:** \$40 **Contact:** www.fortmason.org

Brittany Law and David Crane appear in "Pride and Prejudice—The Musical" at Fort Mason.

EVENTS

FRIDAY

Asia Week Symposium: "Issues in Connoisseurship," a program for collectors of Asian art featuring a panel of experts and curators, is among the opening programs of the first region-wide event of its type celebrating Asian art. 1:30 to 5 p.m., free. NanHai Auditorium, 510 Broadway, Millbrae, <http://asiaweeksf.com/events>

The Golden State Record: Billed as "a new kind of live experience in story, sound and music," the show features appearances by Lil B, Janna Levin, Al Letson, Bethany Cosentino, Nosaj Thing, Shamir, Georgia Anne Muldrow, Mark Kozelek, Jon Mooallem, Mark "Frosty" McNeill and Naomi Zeichner. 8 p.m., \$52-\$255. Greek Theatre, 2001 Gayley Road, Berkeley, www.ticketmaster.com **Miti:** The Pennsylvania producer has been creating his brand of piano-driven melodic bass since 2010. 9 p.m., \$15-\$18. Social Hall SF, 1270 Sutter St., S.F., www.axs.com

SATURDAY

Juan Escauriza: The Spanish painter's gallery show "An Uncommon Portrait of San Francisco," which boasts the eye of documentary photographer, opens with a reception. 6 to 9 p.m., free. CK Contemporary, 357 Geary St., S.F., www.ckcontemporary.com



Little Willie G: The soulful vocalist is best known as the voice of East Los Angeles' Thee Midnites, one of the first Chicano bands to have a national hit in the 1960s; War tribute band Cisco Kid opens. 8 p.m., \$20-\$25. Club Fox, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City. www.clubfoxrwc.com **Sia:** The Grammy nominee and multi-



platinum selling hitmaker appears on her first arena tour, "American Nostalgic For The Present," with special guest Miguel. 7 p.m., \$40-\$150. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, www.ticketmaster.com

Pavement's Kannberg hosts 50th birthday bash in S.F.

By Will Reisman
Special to S.F. Examiner

Scott Kannberg of Pavement, a band that set the template for irreverent, slacker youth rock anthems, recently celebrated his 50th birthday.

Despite the milestone, Kannberg (also known as Spiral Stairs) isn't ready to abandon his carefree ways. When he decided to mark his 50th with two birthday party shows this weekend, his thoughts about holding the events at The Chapel were refreshingly uncomplicated.

"The Chapel is close to all my favorite bars, so it's perfect," says Kannberg, who appears Saturday and Sunday at the Mission club with a host of his friend's bands.

Kannberg, who lives in Mexico, had been planning a big 50th bash for about a year, and San Francisco was the logical city to have it, since he grew up in nearby Stockton.

He recruited The Clean, a beloved



COURTESY PETER ELLENBY

IF YOU GO: Spiral Stairs and friends

Where: Chapel, 777 Valencia St., S.F.
When: 9 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Sunday
Tickets: \$32 to \$35
Contact: (415)-551-5157, www.thechapelsf.com

Pavement guitarist Scott Kannberg plays The Chapel this weekend with his musical friends.

New Zealand indie band, to play, as well as post-punk Dirty Ghosts and the Roxy Music cover band For Your Pleasure. The Clean had to back out due to a family illness, but Kannberg was able to convince fellow Pavement co-founder Stephen Malkmus to play instead.

"When The Clean couldn't make it,

I was worried we'd have to cancel the shows," says Kannberg, who started his influential indie rock band with Malkmus in 1989. "But Steve said he was cool with playing both nights, so we decided to make it this big party."

In February, Kannberg will release "Doris and the Daggers," his first solo album in eight years under his Spiral