



THE PAZINSKIS REACH FOR THE STARS IN KING O' THE MOON

February 18 2011 2:28 PM

Alton Little Theater will present the sequel to OVER THE TAVERN, aptly named KING O' THE MOON, March 11th through 20th at the ALT Showplace. The theater group made a commitment to produce author Tom Dudzick's semi-autobiographical trilogy over the course of three seasons. The play-selection committee, directors, and Board of Governors were impressed with the popularity and merits of the three plays which span three decades. In KING O' THE MOON, the Pazinski family has left the conservative 1950s for the rebellious 1960s. Prior knowledge of this working-class family is not a prerequisite to appreciating their ongoing trials and triumphs. As Apollo 11 is about to land on the moon, the family gathers to honor their late father's memory, and they quickly become entangled in each other's problems - Rudy is re-thinking the priesthood, Eddie is preparing for fatherhood and Vietnam, and Annie is contemplating divorce as their mother Ellen considers a new romance. There's rarely a quiet moment in the Pazinski household as they hurtle towards the next decade. ALT patrons embraced the Pazinskis in 1959, at the dawning of the television era, and Lee Cox, PR director for the theater, hopes that theatergoers will embrace the family through the medium of life theater. Cox has been in communication with the author and found him genuinely pleased and impressed that the theater was making the commitment to stage the three works. Diana Enloe portrayed Sister Clarissa in OVER THE TAVERN....that character has gone on to a "greater reward" in KING O' THE MOON and literally that reward has become taking on the directing responsibilities for KING O' THE MOON. Both Enloe and Cox have loved the journey and evolution of the Pazinski family and Cox will direct the LAST MASS AT ST. CASIMIR'S (OVER THE TAVERN, PART III) IN JANUARY OF 2012.

Director Enloe describes KING O' THE MOON as "one of those tricky contemporary pieces that is part comedy, part experience, part message, part character sturdy, part family dynamic". She continues, "Ultimately I see myself as a conductor, trying to maintain a balance of all parts...but the central theme that holds all this together is tolerance. Especially religious tolerance. And if there was ever a time for strong religious tolerance in this country and around the globe, it is now."

The ensemble of six talented actors taking the audience back to 1969 is Gail Drillinger (Ellen) and Jeff Harrison (Walter, Ellen's "friend"); the young adult Pazinski children are Todd Moore (Eddie), Logan Sims (Rudy), Elaine Sims (Annie), and Jake Shipton (Georgie). Eddie's new wife, Maureen, is played by Mikala Wilson. The cast guides the audience on a hilarious and heartfelt journey just as the country is set to take big changes in 1969 and audience will surely enjoy the backdrop and soundtrack of authentic transmissions from Apollo 11.

Reservations may be made by calling 618-462-6562; adult tickets are \$14 and students tickets (through college with ID are \$6). Group discounts are available. KING O' THE MOON runs for nine performances, including two Sunday matinees.