

Tony-Winning Comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* Hits the Players' Stage

By Taryn Sidney

Bundle up and bring yourself and your family to the Springfield Community Players for the players fall production, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. There is no doubt that this show will bring laughter and comedic relief for the whole family.

The story of Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike revolves around the relationship between three middle-aged single siblings, two of whom live together. The storyline of the show takes place during a visit by the third sibling, Masha, who helps support them. The entirety of the show revolves around discussions of their lives and loves, they argue, and Masha even threatens to sell the house. The story elements are based on the works of Anton Chekhov, including several character names, the play's setting in a cherry orchard, and the theme of the possible loss of an ancestral home. The play is written by Christopher Durang.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike premiered at McCarter Theatre in Princeton, New Jersey in 2012, which was followed by an Off-Broadway production later the same year. In 2013, the show moved to Broadway, where it was named a commercial success. Additionally, during its run on Broadway, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* garnered a lot of attention and awards including a Tony award for Best Play.

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike will be directed by John MacDonald, current Springfield Community Players President. "This is my second show as director with my first directorial debut with the Springfield Community Players in 2018 with the successful production of *The Boys Next Door*," says MacDonald.

MacDonald notes that this comedy is a must see. Coming off their successful run with *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Todd Hutchinson (The Man in the Chair) and Andrew Freeman, (The Gangster/Baker) will be the main male characters in this production.

But those aren't the only talented actors that attendees will want to see! Members of the cast are Vanya played by Todd Hutchinson; Sonia played by Aprille Lawrence; Masha played by Anna Kendall; Spike played by Andrew Freeman; Cassandra played by Barbara Ball and new to the SCP Stage, Allie Gibbs who will play Nina.

MacDonald adds, "The Stage will be a stunning site to see. The beautiful set will put you right in the backyard with the actors, with special sound effects and a



Front from left - Barbara Ball as Cassandra, Aprille Lawrence as Sonia and Todd Hutchinson as Vanya; back - Anna Kendall as Masha, Andy Freeman as Spike and Allie Gibbs as Nina

surprising new up and coming theater experience that will make all your senses come alive."

Join us at the Players' Studio on South Street in Springfield to laugh your way through this knee-slapping comedy! Tickets are \$12 for students and seniors, a \$15 for adults. Make reservations online at www.springfieldcommunityplayers.org tickets or by calling 802-885-4098. Show dates are September 27th, 28th, and October 4th and 5th, with doors opening at 7:00 p.m. for the 7:30 show.

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