



# 'A Little Night Music' comes to SRT

SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

PORTSMOUTH | Celebrating its 20th year of bringing quality live theatre to the area, the Seacoast Repertory Theatre begins its Renaissance Season with "A Little Night Music," playing September 15 through October 15.

Stephen Sondheim's musical unfolds told this way: Fredrik Egerman is very happy in his marriage to a 17-

year-old virgin named Anne. The problem is, she's been that way for the whole 11 months of the marriage.

Feeling just a bit restless, Fredrik goes to see an old flame, the famous actress Desiree Armfeldt. Desiree is getting tired of her life, and is thinking of settling down. She sets her sights on Fredrik despite his marriage, and upon her own married lover,

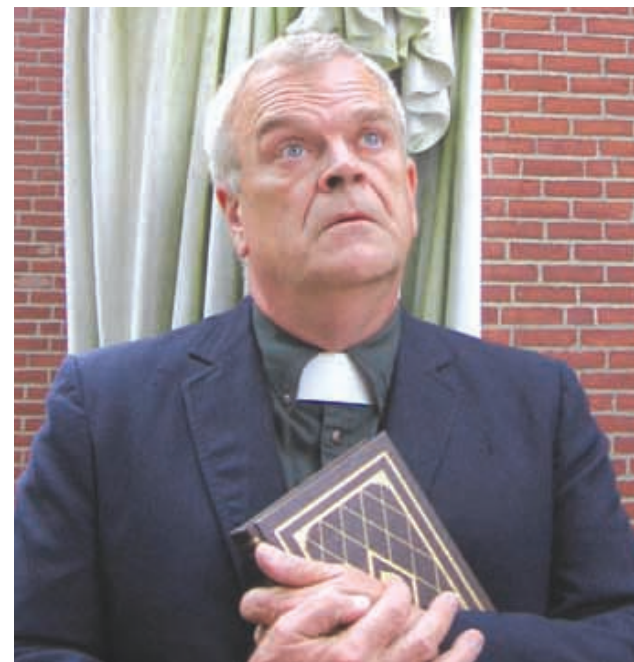
Count Carl-Magnus.

Putting her plan into action, Desiree gets her mother to invite the Egermans to her country estate for the weekend. But when Carl-Magnus and his wife Charlotte appear too, things begin to get farcical, and the night must smile for the third time before all the lovers are united.

Showtimes for "A Little

Night Music" are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$27-\$37.

The Seacoast Repertory Theatre is located at 125 Bow Street in Portsmouth. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (800) 639-7650 or (603) 433-4472, or visit [www.seacoastrep.org](http://www.seacoastrep.org).



'SAINTS PRESERVE US!' — Norm Smith (pictured) plays Father Alex in George Hosker Jr.'s new comedy, "God's Cruel Joke," playing from September 8-17 at WEST.

— Atlantic News Photo Courtesy of Laura Pope

## Firehouse to hold auditions

SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

NEWBURYPORT | The Firehouse Center for the Arts has announced that auditions will be held at the Dance Place in Mill Building #1 at the Tannery, located at 50 Water Street in downtown Newburyport.

This audition, which will be for the holiday performance of "Nutbuster," will take place on Saturday, September 16 at 11 a.m. The show is a modern rendition of "The Nutcracker," with music to be performed by E.J. Ouellette.

"Nutbuster" will be presented by Exit Dance Theatre and the Firehouse Center for the Arts the weekend of December 1-3.

The auditions will be held for elementary school age and up. No experience necessary,

just a desire to perform movement theater with limited text. Children should wear comfortable clothes, and no shoes are needed.

For more information about the audition process, call the Firehouse at (978) 462-7336.

## Just joking at WEST

SPECIAL TO THE ATLANTIC NEWS

PORTSMOUTH | Vatican Productions presents "God's Cruel Joke," a new adults-only comedy by George Hosker Jr., playing from September 8-17 at the West End Theater, located at 959 Islington Street in Portsmouth.

"God's Cruel Joke" is a farce concerning two brothers who can't seem to find the right life partners. While one brother is straight and the other gay, the two always seem to attract people from the wrong sex — hence "God's Cruel Joke!"

The hilarious comedy features local stars, including Marian Marangelli, Norm Smith, Dennis Purdie, Kathy Horrigan and George Hosker

Jr., former executive director of the Prescott Park Arts Festival.

Reservations for this adults-only show are strongly recommended. Tickets are \$12 and can be reserved by calling (603) 380-6142.

Vatican Productions was started in 2004 by writers and producers Laura Pope and George Hosker Jr. Their previous work has included "The One's That Got Away," "M' is for Marian" and the Underbelly Tour of Portsmouth, which has received national acclaim both on "NH Chronicle" and National Public Radio. Their upcoming work, "A Dickens of a Christmas" will premiere over the holidays.

## New BFLF season at SSC

SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

RYE | Parents can discover the wonders of nature with their preschoolers by taking part in the Seacoast Science Center's Big Fish, Little Fish (BFLF) program.

Registration is now open for BFLF, which begins on October 31 and November 1-3, meeting once a week for six weeks.

Conducted at the SSC at Odiome Point in Rye, BFLF is organized by the age of the participating child. Sign up for Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays (ages 18 months to 3-1/2 years) from 10-11:30 a.m., or Fridays (ages 3-1/2 to 5) from 12:30-2 p.m.

BFLF teaches young children (and their favorite adult) about the natural environment through guided explo-

ration and hands-on discovery. During this session, participants will explore the "Winter Woodlands of Odiome." They will follow the tracks of deer and fox (if there's snow), make fairy houses and search the shore for treasures.

The cost per child is \$91 for members, or \$114 for non-members. Those who become members when they register for BFLF can take advantage of program discounts (and more) right away.

For daily themes, activities and a downloadable registration form, visit the Learning/ Pre-K section at [www.seacoastsciencecenter.org](http://www.seacoastsciencecenter.org); request a form by e-mail at [registrar@seacentr.org](mailto:registrar@seacentr.org); or call (603) 436-8043, ext. 20.

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