



## Ahh the Bliss of Marriage... in "Don't Hug Me, We're Married"

The world premiere of "Don't Hug Me, We're Married," now in its run at the Lonny Chapman Theatre, is one of multiple installments of a very successful musical franchise, initiated by the two brilliant brothers, Phil and Paul Olson.

They hail from Edina, Minnesota, which the city 'Bunyon Bay' is based upon. Hence, the play has inside jokes of all things Minnesotan and Norwegian, and is a glorious love story to the essence of matrimony. The show is a wonderful montage of song, dance, humor, drama, all of which encompass the trials and tribulations of three would-be couples: Gunner & Clara (Don Schlossman; Rebekah Dunn); Kanute & Trigger (Bert Emmett; Don Schlossman); and Bernice & Aarvid (Truett Jean Butler; Troy Whitaker). Only Clara and Gunner are actually married; the other two couples are betrothed.

Initially Bernice and Kanute are portrayed as a very unlikely pair, with all their comical innuendos- quite the mismatch. Gunner and Clara, as well, are forever at odds, and always one-upping, trying to even the score, in the best spouse department, but are begrudging bedmates at best. Also involved is the melange of Aarvid, the would be suitor of Bernice, ever aiming to please. And, of course, Trigger, the bride in waiting, a nurturing scoutleader, Gunner's twin sister. The outstanding original song numbers include "The Greatest Love Song Ever," "The Day That Bob Dylan Was Here," and "We Are Gathered Here Today," to name a few standouts.

The dancing and choreography (Stan Mazin) adds to the whole mood, hilarious and well dreamed up.

Anyone, married or not, will enjoy the antics, replete with credible Midwest accents, and authentic set design (Chris Winfield) as well. This is a typically stellar production by the Group Rep at the Lonny Chapman, in operation for forty years.

Through November 15th

Fridays and Saturdays 8PM; Sundays 2 PM

The Lonny Chapman Theatre

10900 Burbank Blvd. North Hollywood, CA

818 763-5990 [www.thegroupeprep.com](http://www.thegroupeprep.com)