

# The Toluca Times

and Canyon Cities

BY [PAT TAYLOR](#) ON OCTOBER 10, 2014

## [THEATRE REVIEWS](#)

*A totally entertaining musical with a nutty storyline, countless “over the top” visuals, and whacky songs. What’s not to like?*

Don’t Hug Me, We’re Married



*Rebekah Dunn, Bert Emmett, Don Schlossman, Truett Butler, and Troy Whitaker in “Don’t Hug Me, We’re Married” at the Lonny Champan Theatre in NoHo.*

A world premiere – the fifth in the crowd pleasing Don’t Hug Me series of whacky Minnesota musical comedies. Penned OUTRAGEOUSLY by Phil Olson, with music and orchestrations by his brother Paul Olson... I’ve caught every one of them... and loved every maniacal moment! The same zany characters appear each time, in a little bar in a small Minnesotan town called Bunyan Bay. Each time these quirky characters turn up with new issues, the laughs are non-stop!

The playwright (one of the nicest guys you could ever meet) must be just a tad off kilter to have created these insanely “off-the-wall” characters. Phil has written thirteen published plays, (seven published by the infamous Samuel French), including the Don’t Hug Me musicals, and many have run nationwide.

This current offering, directed RIOTOUSLY by Doug Engalla, finds our familiar characters facing a duo of marriage proposals. Gunner and Clara, the long-married couple who own the bar, are competing in a whacky personal contest, and Bernice and Aarvid are soon to be married.

Kanute, a wealthy and colorful nutcake, objects to the pending marriage, wanting Bernice for himself. (A SCREAMINGLY FUNNY Bert Emmett)

This entire cast is SHEER COMEDIC PERFECTION throughout! Don Schlossman is MADLY MARVELOUS in two roles, and Rebekah Dunn is a TOTAL RIOT as his wife, Clara. As the soon-to-be-betrothed couple, Bernice and Aarvid, Truett Butler and Troy Whitaker are QUIRKY FUN. The surprises and belly laughs are non-stop! The opening night audience roared with uncontrollable laughter throughout.

The shenanigans are laced with seventeen HYSTERICAL song performances... accompanied by a karaoke machine. The complex and GORGEOUS set design by Chris Winfield and FLAIRFUL CHOREOGRAPHY by Stan Mazin, set the tone of the nutty story with perfection. Kudos also to J. Kent Inasy for lighting, and Steve Shaw for CRISP sound.

This is a SENSATIONALLY SILLY laugh riot... sure to tickle your funny bone! If you are in the mood for a HILARIOUSLY OUTRAGEOUS evening of theatre... this is the one to catch! Take along a grumpy friend – they will be forever cured!

Running through November 15th at Lonny Chapman Theatre, located at 10900 Burbank Blvd. in North Hollywood. For seats, call (818) 763-5990, or go to [www.thegroupeprep.com](http://www.thegroupeprep.com).