

TAKE 2

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Jason Alexander directs Jewish revue at Mizner



ALEXANDER

The laugh is unmistakable and yes, that's Jason Alexander on the phone to talk about the musical revue coming into Boca for a month next week.

Not just the actor from his "Seinfeld" days as George Costanza, Alexander directs and wrote three new songs for "When You're in Love, the Whole World is Jewish," at the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center Dec. 11 to Jan. 11.

"Our show is clean. It's a family show and it's so nice to see grandparents bring their children. Comedy is comedy," said Danny Gold, co-producer with Billy Riback.

This is the show's third incarnation after runs in Los Angeles and San Francisco, so it's billed as the Florida and East Coast premiere. Four original cast members with Broadway and TV credits are returning in a cast of six with live music. Alexander's sticking around for the first preview and opening night for this Equity production, he said.

Notice he talks about the show and his mother in Coconut Creek, not himself. In fact, he's so down to earth, Alexan-

der's doing a one-man show in February at the Coral Springs Center for the Arts as a benefit for his mother's 95th birthday and her synagogue Congregation Kol Tikvah's 25th anniversary in Parkland, according to Steve Allen, executive director.

"This will be our major fundraiser and the kickoff to our campaign," Allen said.

Tickets are not on sale for that yet.

Back to the show in Boca, one of Alexander's new songs is "Let's Eat," and two newer ones for this version: "The Jewish American Princess Song" and "Oy Vey," which explores that famous reaction to almost anything, he said.

If the show title sounds familiar, the source material is three comedy albums from the 1960s, including the 1966 album of the same name by Bob Booker and George Foster.

"We could do three shows," there's so much to translate to the stage, Alexander said.

"A lot of the songs, we kept or we had to throw out or revamp," he said.

Some references were generational, so they were updated. "We also wanted the show to appeal to people in their 30s, so we thought about what other aspects of Jewish life we'd have fun with."

The producers picked Boca Raton because of the heavily Jewish demographics, not the old "Seinfeld" reference to the fictional Del Boca Vista, where Jerry's father headed the condo association.

"We feel the audience will be very receptive to the humor and music," Gold said, calling Alexander "a strong director."

"We sold out in LA for nine weeks and did a short run in San Fran... and the show changed 30 percent in between and changes another 15 to 20 percent," for this run, Gold said. "There's a lot of choreography and eight songs. It's a revue and there are sketches and a closing to give it framework."

Meanwhile, Allen described Alexander's mother Ruth as "computer savvy and sharp as a tack. When I first met her, I didn't know who she was," he said.

"She said, 'Let me show me you a picture of my sonny boy.' And I said: 'Boy, he looks familiar.'"

For tickets and performance schedules, visit worldisjewishtheplay.com or call 561-910-7227 or 561-362-0003 for group sales. Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center is at the south end of Mizner Park, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton.

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