



Theatre Review: Duran DurAntony & Cleopatra

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Troubadour Theater Company presents the World Premiere of *Duran DurAntony & Cleopatra*. Musical Direction by Ryan Whyman. Directed and Adapted by Matt Walker.

Matt Walker rewrites the love story of Mark Antony and Cleopatra, adding the music of **Duran Duran** to energize the characters and the plot. Based on Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, this slapstick musical is a fine example of a theatrical form known as commedia dell'arte.

The action on stage is reminiscent of *The Carol Burnett Show* sketches, with actors occasionally breaking character due to funny dialogue or even hecklers pitching in. And it's exactly that, audience participation, one of the main attractions of the show.

Antony (**Matt Walker**) falls in love with Cleopatra (**Cloie Wyatt Taylor**), but for political convenience, Antony ends up marrying Octavius Caesar's (**Rick Batalla**) sister, the sultry Octavia (**Philip McNiven**). From there, misunderstandings, rage, and killer songs become the norm. The dialogue is peppered with sexual innuendos, adding a mischievous element to match the action on stage. The music, the dances, and the physical comedy make it a highly kinetic play to keep things engaging and entertaining. Walker, Batalla, and **Beth Kennedy** lead the comedy, delivering an outstanding performance.

The background graphics and the special effects contribute creativity and comedy to the production. There's ocean breeze, waves, a shooting where bullets don't make it to the other side, snake bites (not real), and self-inflicted wounds (not real either). The costumes and live music also capture the

exceptional effort of the production to put together a mesmerizing spectacle that combines a classical story and the timeless music of one the most influential rock bands of recent history.

In *Duran DurAntony & Cleopatra*, tragedy becomes an excuse to unleash mayhem, leaving behind a trail of fun, comedy, and music in an exciting and festive environment.

Duran DurAntony & Cleopatra

The Colony Theatre

555 N Third St.

Burbank, CA 91502

June 7th through June 16th

Thursdays and Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturdays at 4:00 pm & 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm.

Tickets: troubie.com

Musical Direction by **Ryan Whyman**. Directed and adapted by **Matt Walker**.

Cast: **Beth Kennedy**, **Rick Batalla**, **Mike Sulprizio**, **Rob Nagle**, **Cloie Wyatt Taylor**, **John Paul Batista**, **Katie Kitani**, **Mark McCracken**, **Philip McNiven**, **Suzanne Jolie**, and adaptor/director **Matt Walker**.

Troubadorchestra: **Kevin Stevens** on drums, **Ryan Whyman** on piano/MD, **Carlos Rivera** on bass, and **Mike Abraham** on guitar.

Creative team: Lighting Design by **Bo Tindell**; Sound Design by **Robert Arturo Ramirez**; Projection Design is by **Rick Batalla**; Costumer: **Suzanne Narbonne** (Using designs by **Sharon McGunigle**); Wig Design is by **Suzanne Jolie Narbonne**. The Music Supervisor is **Eric Heinly**. The Production Stage Manager is **Corey Womack**.