

Troubies infuse Shakespeare with hilarity, hairdos and Duran Duran hits

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LOS ANGELES — The Troubadour Theater Company — or Troubies, as they are lovingly called — is famous for their mashups. Throw the music of Weezer into Shakespeare’s “Julius Caesar” and voila: “Julius Weezer.”

Scrooge meets Carole King in “A Christmas Carole King.”

- **This summer The Troubadour Theater Company – or Troubies – return to their Shakespearean roots and the hits of Duran Duran for “Duran Durantony and Cleopatra”**
- Fans who have followed the group for decades wrapped around the Colony Theatre to purchase tickets they morning they went on sale
- **The Colony Theatre was recently awarded an extended lease to operate in the city-owned space, which has become the Troubies' latest home**
- **“Duran Durantony and Cleopatra” runs through June 16**

This summer sees them sailing back to their Shakespearean roots and the hits of Duran Duran for “Duran Durantony and Cleopatra.”

Troubies founder and director Matt Walker, who admitted he danced to “Save a Prayer” at his high school prom, said this parody practically wrote itself.

“Her name is Rio,” Walker sang. “Well, how about her name is Cleo, and she’s sailing down the Nile. I know. Right?”

The band of merry musicians is closing in on their 30th anniversary but age has not withered their enthusiasm. Nearly three decades of parodies, punchlines and prerequisite knee pads later and Walker is still having a blast.

“I get to wear a skirt with knee pads and a cape,” he explained, “with a fake dagger that I can twirl around on my finger.”



(Spectrum News/Tara Lynn Wagner)

Also wrapped around their fingers are their fans, who wrapped around the block, lining up hungry like wolves to snatch up tickets the moment they went on sale. It's music to Heather Provost's ears. Provost is the producing artistic director of the Colony Theatre in Burbank — the Troubies' newest home. Having just been awarded an extended lease in the city-owned space, she's not only thankful for the crowds they bring in but the joy as well.

"I love big, bold comedy," she said. "I just love being able to come to the theater and laugh, forget about everything that's going on outside in the world. And that's what they do."

Her favorite Duran Duran song is "Union of the Snake" but the band's catalog is extensive. And in this show, the hits keep coming.

"The Wild Boys," "A View to a Kill," and "The Reflex" all make an appearance, not to mention "Notorious," now substituted with the name Octavius.

"That's me-mius," founding member Rick Batalla sings, wearing a skirt shorter than anything in a Duran Duran video.

"Simon Lebon, if you're watching, don't send us a cease and desist," Walker jested.

Don't worry. The Troubies have no plans to desist any time soon.

“People need to laugh,” Walker explained. “They need to forget for a couple of hours. Be a little nostalgic for times that they grew up in.”

Actor Cloie Wyatt Taylor, who plays Cleopatra, compared working with the troupe to “adult recess” and as long as their kneepads hold, The Troubies plan to keep playing.

CORRECTION: This story has been updated to correct the anniversary the Troubies are celebrating. (June 6, 2024)