

And L.A.'s Summer Festival Continues...

With the conclusion of the theatre section of the Olympic Arts Festival last Sunday (July 22), one may think there is nothing of a theatrical nature to take visiting relatives or friends during the Olympics. Of course there are OAF dance and music events through Aug. 12 as well as the Hollywood Bowl, Disneyland and Universal Tours. But plenty of theatre is available throughout the Southern California area also (a quick count shows 130 different offerings at large houses, waiver, dinner theatres and various festivals). So, for a change of pace from all the sporting events, here's a few suggestions to spend an evening or Sunday afternoon (though theatre may be the furthest thing from

their idea of recreation).

For something entirely different (they're not going to find anything like it at their local community theatre), I suggest *Tamara* for pure fun and adventure. If they're fans of *Dynasty* (and even if they aren't), visitors are sure to enjoy this intriguing tale of sex and power. Even at \$50 a ticket (matinees are lower), it's worth every dollar.

Musicals are sparse at the moment but *42nd Street* (\$40 top) is sure to please while *Bottoms Up* caters to a more risqué crowd. Catalina Production Group has come up with not one but two lively musicals, both cleverly and satirically done. If you don't think Uncle Harry will take a liking to Marvin's sexual yearnings in *Trousers*, he's sure to be pleased with *Living Dolls*, particularly the belting vocals of dynamic doll Linda Hart.

Recommended holdovers from the Arts Festival include *Back to Back* (till

Aug. 5 at the Victory), *Edmond* at the Odyssey and *Wild Oats* at the Mark Taper (both playing to Aug. 19) while *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been* (at the Back Alley through Sept. 2) should have been an official Festival entry. Long-running shows with cast changes which hopefully don't affect their quality include *Bleacher Bums* (for baseball fans), *The Coming of Stork* and *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* while the fresh cast of *Beyond Therapy* is more on the mark than the one that opened six months ago.

There's much to praise outside of L.A. too including the Garden Grove Shakespeare Festival's *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Tartuffe*, a half-dozen offerings at San Diego's Old Globe and even more at PCPA Theatrefest in Solvang and Santa Maria. So, L.A.'s summer arts festival does continue.

—LEE MELVILLE

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