Dana h

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THT Production Offers Heaping Helping of Holiday Hilarity

By Sophie Braccini



From left, Liam Callister, Dennis Markam, and Justin Dupuis. Photo Stu Selland

funniest play he's ever di- rary setting." rected. "Every Christmas Story Town Hall Theatre to put everyone a jovial mood for the holidays. It is supported by an there is probably a dose of imtheir comic genius.

of 'A Christmas Carol.' But then the character on stage delivering his fellow actors who are not interested anymore in doing that play and they convince him to diverge and try to create a piece of he shows the various facets of his theater that's all encompassing, representing all Christmas stories existing from all different coun- traught elf, a female newscaster, tries around the world," says a fairy, and even as Death itself. Storm. Then starts a hilarious Callister is a younger actor full of dance through the stories and tra- boyish, sometimes touching, enditions of the holiday season, ergy. You can tell he thoroughly from "The Grinch Who Stole enjoys playing Gustav the green-Christmas," to the Rankin Bass nosed rein-goat. Markam – the television favorites of the 1960s, serious one to begin with then some. The second half of the play is Wonderful Life." the spot from Scrooge to Jimmy Stewart in order to interact with another character, a great piece of comedy. "Early in the '70s, three guys speare Company; it is as funny as HallTheatre.com.

ichael Storm says it is the those guys were, in a contempo-

While the script is important Ever Told (And Then Some!)" is in any comedy, timing is everyindeed a fast-paced comedy and a thing. The three-man cast – Justin wonderful choice by Lafayette's DuPuis, Liam Callister and Markam - look like they are genuinely enjoying themselves, and excellent cast of three favorite provisation in the physical deliv-THT actors who make full use of ery of the play, which makes it seem fresh and spontaneous. The "We start off with the opening comedic timing is perfect as the three men juggle the tens of different costumes, entrances and the first lines is joined by two of exits that are needed throughout the play.

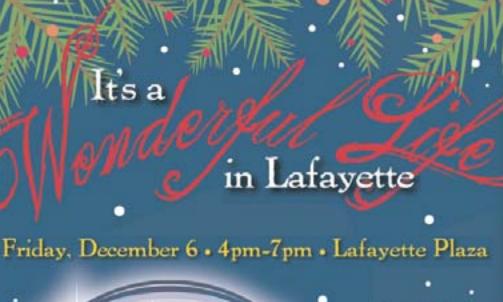
> It is not DuPuis' first appearance at THT, but it is the first time comedic talent, including slapstick humor. He is funny as a dis-



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including the tale of Gustav the quickly cracks up, but still atgreen-nosed rein-goat (Rudolph tempts to be the anchor of the is still under copyright), to the show as his two partners go full Macy's Christmas Parade, and tilt. The balance of the three is excellent.

The show is Storm's directoan incredibly rapid splicing of "A rial debut at THT. An actor and Christmas Carol" and "It's a director, for the last four years Dennis he's been the artistic director at Markam's character changes on Theater First in Berkeley. He previously directed "Every Christmas Story" in 2008 in San Jose and he brings an immediate maturity to the show.

The play is an excellent holicame up with a play called 'The day experience for the whole Complete Works of William family, although the existence of Shakespeare Abridged,' covering Santa is 'seriously' discussed and all of Shakespeare's plays. They might be difficult for young bewere called the Reduced Shake- lievers. For information or to purspeare Company," recalls Storm. chase tickets, contact the Town "This play could have been [per- Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) formed] by the Reduced Shake- 283-1557 or visit www.Town-

"Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)" runs Dec. 7-21, with previews on Dec. 5-6. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; at 3 p.m. (except Dec. 7) and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15. Town Hall's Theatre Club will have a free wine and talk-back session with the director and cast immediately following the performance on Friday, Dec. 13.



SATURDAY DEC. 7 4-6PM

KIDS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP AT AMFA GALLERY

4-7PM **VISITS FROM SANTA AROUND THE SQUARE**

5:30-7:30PM HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES

6-7PM MIRAMONTE HIGH SCHOOL A CAPPELLA PERFORMANCES

7PM TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

SATURDAY DEC. 14 3-CLOSE (ORSNOW MELTS) REAL SNOW WONDERLAND **BUILD YOUR OWN SNOWMAN**

5:30-7:30PM HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDES

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