



GO THE TRUE STORY OF JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

By Pauline Amadek

For the past 12 summers, the Culver City Public Theatre has been staging free plays in cozy Carlson Park for families. Audiences bring picnics, blankets and chairs and gather under shady trees for an hour or so of entertainment -- generally crowd-pleasing fare such as popular Shakespeare comedies and kid-friendly classics. Now playing is an imaginative adaptation (by director Heidi Dotson) of the fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk." Dotson cleverly blends the tale of the golden goose with the familiar story of simpleton Jack, who trades the family cow for a handful of magic beans. Nicely expanded into two acts that fill an hour, the retooled story presents the usually terrifying giant (Dean Edward) as a struggling poet with a devious wife (Ronnie Loaiza), and fashions a thoroughly happy ending. Beautifully narrated by the cow, Milky White (Rachanee Kitchel) -- whom, hilariously, only the audience can understand -- this sweet, magical play had little kids and adults giggling. Cute sets, costumes and props, as well as the lovely cast, make this is a delightful, low-tech production. Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park, Motor Avenue & Braddock Drive, Culver City; Sat.-Sun., noon. (in rep with "The Enchanted Cottage, which performs at 2 p.m.); through August 22. (310) 712-5482. A Children's Popcorn Theater production.