

# Arts & Entertainment

## Last Chance for Theatre in the Park

By Beverly Summo

This weekend, Aug. 28 - 29, at 2 p.m. is the last chance to see "The Fan," the final play in the Culver City Public Theatre in the Park 1999 summer season.

The play, written by Italian playwright Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793) has been transferred to post World War II, in a village near Milan, telling the tale of Evaristo and Candida, secretly in love.

The slender plot hinges on a fan, accidentally broken by Candida, and Evaristo's problem when he buys a new one, giving it to the peasant girl Giannina, to deliver it to his beloved.

Through a bungled set of circumstances, Giannina's sweetheart, the shoemaker Crespino, and Candida both believe that Evaristo is in love with Giannina, despite his anguished protests.

It's clear from the onset that these people have way too much time on their hands, particularly Candida's royal suitor, the Baron Del Cedro, and the innkeeper Coronato, with eyes only for Giannina. The use Evaristo's dilemma as an opportunity to advance their own romantic causes.

Not lost in the mix is the Count De Rocca Marina, a self-appointed protector of the villagers, deluded into believing he is held in high esteem, intruding into every situation as he preens about.

Innocently caught up in the fury is the shopkeeper Susanna who sold the fan, the last one in her shop, and wishes she hadn't.

Looking out for Candida is her aunt Signora Geltrude (Pamela Anderson) with romantic plans of her own.

Christopher David Gaunit directed the high-spirited cast con gusto with lots of minor scuffles, shouting matches, and more than a few truly funny, frantic chases as the combatants reach the top of their fury at being misunderstood.

Randy Brown is a thoroughly likable

Evaristo, desperation giving way to despair at being misjudged.

Nicole Feenstra is the puzzled and hurt Candida, and Lia Beachy is Susanna, not adept at keeping secrets.

Clarissa Jacobson is the volatile Giannina, given to intense and believable rages through pure frustration, much of it from dealing with her over-protective brother Moracchio (Gregg Pauly). She is in love with the shoemaker Crespino (Kyle Nudo) while the innkeeper Coronato (Mark A. Cross) is in love with her.

Scott Bailey cuts a regal figure as the



Baron Del Cedro.

John Duncan makes the most of his role as the Count, so full of himself that this pompous fool doesn't realize he's a laughing stock.

Eric Blitzer is that doddering ancient, the apothecary Tomoteo, whose very appearance is greeted with a group shudder.

Dagan Rose-Stockwell is a triple threat as the doorman, the innkeeper's servant and as an overbearing waiter.

Written in the manner of Moliere, program notes tell us, "The Fan" is a delightful concoction full of laughs and absurd situations.

Carlson Park is on Braddock Drive, three blocks east of Overland Avenue.

Admission is free and street parking is available; bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy.