

THE PEOPLE VS. MONA

A Musical Mystery Screwball Comedy

THE PEOPLE VS. MONA is a love story, murder mystery, courtroom shenanigans, fate-of-a-small-town-hanging-on-the-verdict musical. Seven actor/singers play all the roles in a multicultural cast, accompanied by three onstage musicians. The music combines folk, blues, gospel, jazz, rock, musical comedy, school anthem, marching band and bossa nova with a theatrical sensibility.

Mona Mae Katt, a third-generation Latina-American, owns the Frog Pad, the long-time musical heart of Tippo, GA, a town in need of a plan to revive itself. She is accused of killing C.C. Katt, recording studio operator and her husband of ten hours, by hitting him over the head with her Stratocaster guitar. She is defended by Jim Summerford, a Southern gentleman who's never won a case against prosecutor and Mayoral candidate Mavis Frye—his fiancé.

As Jim tries to prove Mona's innocence, he becomes attracted to her, and Mavis ups the stakes: she wants to convict Mona, marry Jim, take office, tear down the Frog Pad, and put up a Casino—bringing in bucks, but taking away Tippo's artistic and social traditions in the process. And if Mona is found guilty, the odds are Mavis will get her way.

Several of the actors play multiple roles in a parade of witnesses on the way to a sequence of surprise endings. MONA manages to combine a love triangle, courtroom drama, and character-driven comedy in an original book musical, with a light-hearted message about the importance of cultural heritage in America's towns. Keep the Frog Pad alive!

THE PEOPLE VS. MONA: PRESS QUOTES, NYC

“A diverting musical confection by Jim Wann and Patricia Miller. Mr. Wann was the main composer of ‘Pump Boys And Dinettes,’ a theatrical phenomenon that won the hearts of audiences around the world. (‘Mona’) captures the same spirit of good-natured down-home fun. There is something for everybody!” –*The New York Times*

“Plenty of laughs! The jaunty score has a strong country feel but also displays plenty of musical variety. Consistently inventive!” –*The New York Post*

“Delivers a HOOTIN’ good time! Book and score are all of a piece. Cheerfully endearing!” –*Variety*

“A three-piece onstage band keeps the trial scenes thumping, and each member of the spunky ensemble (some in multiple roles) gets a moment in the Southern sun.” –*The New Yorker*

“Infectious tunes! (And compared to ‘Pump Boys’) a different, fuller meal, served with just as much down-home sweetness and extra helpings of story line.” –*BackStage*

“A terrific new musical! Guilty of conspiracy to divert you, pre-meditated cleverness, attempted kidnapping of your funny bone, and first degree talent. A fair, considered verdict of “Damn! I wanna see this!” –*EDGEnewyorkcity*

“Feels destined for a long life all around the USA. Completely appropriate for every age group!” –*NYtheatre.com*

“This off-Broadway property has potential legs! A bouncy country and western musical with blues and show tunes thrown in. Tasty gumbo!” –*Time Out NY*

“Southern hospitality and a lot of laughs! A lighthearted fun musical experience.” –*Curtain Up*

“The laughs keep coming!”—*Wcities*

THE PEOPLE VS. MONA: Press Quotes—Regional USA

(Pasadena Playhouse/CA, Theatrical Outfit/Atlanta GA, Chattanooga Theatre Center/TN, Visalia Players/CA)

“Theatres coast to coast will likely soon be producing it.” –*Variety* (L.A.)

“MONA wins on appeal.” –*Los Angeles Times*

“Fresh, funny, unpretentious musical theatre.” –*Hollywood Reporter*

“MONA’s courtroom setting resonates with melodic diversity.”
–*Orange County Register*

“No mystery here: MONA is all-out fun.” –*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

“Particularly clever conceptual jokes...This one’s for everybody.”
–*Southern Crescent About Town*

“A fresh approach (to) notions of mercy vs. justice.” --*Creative Loafing*

“If ‘Chicago’ were to marry ‘The Andy Griffith Show,’ their child would be MONA.”
–*Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register*

“Pretty darn entertaining!” –*Los Angeles Magazine*

“Audiences walk away singing the songs.” –*Fresno Bee*

“Killer Musical! MONA is a real hoot.” –*Pasadena Star-News*

“Simply put, MONA is a hoot and a half.” –*Chattanooga Times*