

entertainment news

New Actor Strengthens Dynamic in 'The Story Of My Life'

By KRISTEN FIORE | Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer

Imagine you're performing in a production of "The Fantasticks" in St. Petersburg when you get the opportunity to perform in "The Story of My Life" in The Villages with your significant other just after "The Fantasticks" closes. But here's the catch: you have two weeks, multiple trips between St. Petersburg and The Villages and about 30 hours of rehearsal time to learn all of the music and lines for a character who stays on stage throughout the show. Sounds pretty difficult, right? It was.

But when the actor who played the original role of Thomas left the Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol's production of "The Story of My Life," Michael Ursua couldn't pass up the opportunity to fill in and perform with his husband, Alex Jorth, who plays the role of Alvin in the show.

"The Story of My Life" is a two-man musical in which Thomas struggles to write the eulogy for his best friend, Alvin.

The show is framed by Thomas's memories of Alvin as he grapples with Alvin's death, their relationship and what his part in it all was.

"I had to do it, because how many times will we get to do a show like this where it's just the two of us?" Ursua said. "I knew that we would bring a connection that's just there already."

So the preparations began. Ursua said he played "The Story of My Life" soundtrack in the car as he drove to and from St. Petersburg, and he went over lines whenever he could.

"It was hard," Ursua said. "It was one of the hardest things I've ever done."

But it was worth it, because



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MICHAEL URSUA,
who plays the role of Thomas in The Studio Theatre's production of "The Story of My Life."



Submitted Photo

Michael Ursua and Alex Jorth are on stage friends in The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol's "The Story of My Life" and married in real life, which benefits the dynamic on stage. The show closes Sunday, but tickets are available for all remaining shows.

now he gets to perform with his husband every night.

"That's why he put in all of those crazy hours and did all of that driving," Jorth said. "Because now we get to do this really sweet, powerful show together, just the two of us."

Ursua had his first performance about a week ago and is loving it.

For Jorth, it's interesting to see how the show plays differently with a new actor.

"The audiences here are smart," Jorth said. "They're

good. They're paying attention."

It's an emotionally heavy show, but that's what they enjoy about it.

"As an actor, it's really fun to dig into those heavy moments," Jorth said. "That's what you get into the theater for, to tell those really powerful stories."

"It's also fun to see what's going to happen to you," Ursua added. "It's not the same every night. It always ends up being emotional at the end, for me especially, but you never know when it

will click. It's also interesting because you hear the sniffing going on around you, all over the place."

The dynamic between the two gives the show a more balanced and connected feel.

"We genuinely care for each other, and I think you can probably see that," Ursua said. "It's very sincere."

"It's definitely a very special experience," Jorth added.

There still are opportunities to see Ursua in "The Story of My Life," and experience

the powerful message the show delivers.

The show closes Sunday, and tickets are still available for all of the remaining shows. They can be purchased for \$40 online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE TAX ROLL OPENED FOR PAYMENT OF 2018 TAXES

Randy Mask, Sumter County Tax Collector, has received a certified tax roll from the Sumter County Property Appraiser. The tax roll will be open for collection beginning November 1st. The 2018 tax roll consists of real estate and tangible personal property taxes, which include collections for: County, School, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Wildwood, Bushnell, Center Hill, Coleman and Webster. Sumter County Municipal Services Benefit Unit for fire rescue services, Villages Fire District, Sumter County Contracted Fire District, and the special assessments of The Villages of Sumter are also collected.

Taxes are payable on November 1, 2018. **Discounts will be at the rate of FOUR PERCENT (4%) in the month of November, THREE PERCENT (3%) in the month of December, TWO PERCENT (2%) in the month of January, and ONE PERCENT (1%) in the month of February.** Taxes paid during the month of March are without discount, and become delinquent April 1, 2019. A 3% penalty will be added for late payment of real estate property taxes, and a 1.5% penalty for delinquent tangible taxes. Payments made after March 31, 2019 must be in certified funds. If payment is not received, the Tax Collector will hold an annual tax certificate sale on June 1, 2019.

If you do not receive a tax notice in November, please visit our website at www.sumtertaxcollector.com or contact our office. Office hours: 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Bushnell
220 E. McCollum Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513
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The Villages Sumter Service Center
7375 Powell Rd., Ste. 135
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8**

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