

Out & About: Performing arts in Los Angeles this weekend

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James Seifert and Jonathan Fishman in rehearsal for 'Daddy Issues' – Photo by Kayte Deioma

Queer Off-Broadway hit 'Daddy Issues' comes to LA

How far will a gay guy go to please his controlling Jewish parents?

Fans of queer LA theatre can find out the answer to this question beginning on October 14, when the Off-Broadway hit “Daddy Issues” opens for its West Coast premiere at the Complex in Hollywood.

Written and directed by David Goldyn, the play – which enjoyed a sold-out run at the St. Clements Theatre in New York – is an exuberant screwball comedy which starts out slow before snowballing into an outrageous farce. It hinges on a couple (Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitz) who are in denial about their son Donald’s gay lifestyle, disapprove of his career choice, and

question his flair for decoration. To get his family to stop kvetching, Donald needs a son – so he enlists the help of his ballsy best friend Henrietta and a rising drag queen named Levi, and hires a ten-year-old kid from downstairs. As the official synopsis asks, “What could go wrong?”

According to Goldyn, his play was inspired by a real-life incident he had in dealing with his own overbearing parents. “All the characters are based on real people,” he adds. “Although many of the most outrageous lines may sound like they belong in a sit-com, they actually came straight out of the mouths of my mother, father and grandma.”

The Off-Broadway production was called by the Huffington Post, “[a] frothy, whipped gelatin dessert of a show,” and the Times Square Chronicles described it as laugh out loud funny.”

Goldyn himself directs the West Coast premiere, which stars James Seifert stars as Donald, a gay “everyman” who can only react to all the craziness going on around him. Donald’s homophobic father, Sid, is played by Jonathan Fishman, while Pamela Shaw takes on the role of Marion, Donald’s funny, somewhat screwy mother who loves to quote Reader’s Digest. Noa Lev–Ari and Josh Nadler play his best friends, zaftig Henrietta and drag queen-by-night Levi. Rounding out the cast are Sherry Michaels as Grandma, Hannah Battersby as Donald’s downstairs neighbor, and Solly Werner as precocious 10-year-old Johnny Walker. The play is presented by Charles Blondeau.

Performances of “Daddy Issues” run from **Oct. 14** through **Nov. 13** at **The Complex (6476 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood)**. For tickets and more info, go to daddyissuestheplay.com.