

Ticket

"Barefoot in the Park"

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Staff photo by Brad Meyer

Patrick Slagle, as the worldly womanizer Victor Velasco, and Yvonne Nelson as the overwhelmed mother, provide madcap humor throughout the classic Neil Simon comedy "Barefoot in the Park." Stage Right opens the show at the Crighton on Feb. 17.

Stage Right presents classic comedy 'Barefoot in the Park'

By BRAD MEYER
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A classic romantic comedy from one of America's most prolific and enduring playwrights is coming to the most historical theater in Montgomery County.

The Stage Right production of the Neil Simon comedy "Barefoot in the Park" runs Feb. 17-March 4 at the Crighton Theatre, located at 234 N. Main Street in downtown Conroe.

"It's a challenging production because the action and dialogue between characters is fast and furious," said director Jillian Nolan. "It's important to hit all the

WHAT'S NEXT

The Stage Right production of the Neil Simon comedy "Barefoot in the Park" debuts Feb. 17 at the Crighton Theatre in Conroe. For tickets and information, visit www.stage-right.org or call 936-441-SHOW.

'moments' just right and make them funny."

The popular romantic comedy focuses on newlyweds Corie and Paul as they begin married life in a tiny, fifth-floor walkup in Manhattan. Straight-laced Paul and his spontaneous wife must deal with poor heating, a leaking skylight, an oddball neighbor and Corie's well-meaning mother.

Many will be familiar with the storyline from the 1967 film adaptation starring Jane Fonda and Robert Redford.

"This is a dream role for me," said Crys McClure, who plays Corie in the production. "My parents discouraged me from acting growing up, so having the lead in a romantic comedy is something very special."

Following classes at the Houston Academy of Dramatic Arts two years ago, McClure has gotten serious about acting. She has appeared in smaller roles in other productions and is setting her sights on pursuing other stage and film work in the future.

"Acting is hard work and more time consuming than you'd think," she acknowledged, "but I love it."

Making his theatrical debut as the male lead is Richard Wilcox of The Woodlands. An oil and gas consultant in downtown Houston during the day, Wilcox has found the experience exhilarating – and, like his leading lady, time consuming.

"It's a big commitment of time," said Wilcox. "But this has been a great experience and I've been fortunate to work with a very talented group of people."

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Staff photo by Brad Meyer

The Stage Right production of the classic comedy "Barefoot in the Park" features, from left, Yvonne Nelson, Crys McClure, Patrick Slagle, Richard Wilcox, Steven Dowell and Gerald Livingston.

BAREFOOT

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A rehearsal mishap resulted in a black eye for McClure more than a month ago, but it is healing and she says it will be gone – or easily hidden by makeup – by the opening next Friday. She said she has invited just about everybody she knows to the opening, although her children ages, two and 8,

won't be in the audience.

"I don't think they are ready to see mommy kissing and hugging another man just yet," she quipped. "I'm telling them this is a grownup show."

For Yvonne Nelson, a veteran actress from Houston who has been performing for 54 years – she started at age 3 – portraying the comedic role of the mother has been a blast.

"She's a sweet lady who is in way over her head," said Nelson. "But she's a great sport about it and it's a lot of fun."

The Stage Right production of "Barefoot in the Park" debuts Feb. 17 at the Crighton Theatre in Conroe and runs through March 4. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$12 for students. For tickets and information, visit www.stage-right.org or call 936-441-SHOW.