



SENIOR MOMENTS

FOCUSES ON HUMOROUS ASPECTS OF AGING

By Susan A. Merkner

Photography courtesy San Antonio School for the Performing Arts

For people of a certain age, a memory lapse can be viewed as either a worrisome symptom of serious mental impairment ("Do I have Alzheimer's?") or brushed off as a simple "senior moment."

For those interested in focusing on the humorous aspects of getting older, there's "Senior Moments," a musical production billed as a poignant and hilarious view of aging in all its many facets.

"Senior Moments" will be staged in nine performances January, 14-22 in San Antonio.

Local writer and real estate saleswoman Linda Kaufman, 78, structured the show as a series of vignettes on topics related to aging, such as hearing loss, grandchildren and dating.

Her show is largely based on real situations she has experienced with family and friends. Her husband, 94, has a twin sister in Beverly Hills with whom he is extremely competitive, Kaufman said.

Each of the 13 vignettes in the show includes original music and lyrics, a writing task Kaufman described as easy.





"It took me about 30 minutes to write each song," said Kaufman, who also teaches piano. The writing took about four months, she said, adding, "It's easier than real estate sales."

Kaufman has written other musicals that have been staged in San Antonio, such as "Estherella" and shows based on Jewish folk tales.

Mark A. Lit, former president and CEO of the Barshop Jewish Community Center, directs "Senior Moments." Lit directed two performances of the musical when it debuted in July at the JCC. Aaron Prado returns as music director.

The seven-member cast includes Sonny Melendrez, local broadcaster and motivational speaker, and his wife, Linda. Returning cast members are Sherry Gibbs Houston, DuWayne Greene and Anna Gangai.

Kaufman said there is "plenty of funny stuff" in the show. "I write what I know."

"Aging is a big topic," Kaufman said. "It can be enlightening, as well as entertaining, to see it from someone else's perspective."

Kaufman hopes to mount "Senior Moments" again elsewhere, perhaps turning it into a touring production.

Rather than resisting change, seniors should embrace it, she said. "Be open to the positives in life. You can either cry about life or make humor about it."

"Senior Moments" will be presented in nine weekend shows Jan. 14-22 at the Carol B. Conway Theater, 11210 Disco St., San Antonio, TX 78216. The theater, which is part of the San Antonio School for the Performing Arts (SASPA), is located near U.S. Highway 281 North and East Nakoma Drive.

Tickets are available online at saspa.org or by calling 210-495-0129. Valet parking will be available.