



Camelot Enchants at the Cape Playhouse



"The Lusty Month of May" dance in Camelot. MAGGIE HALL PHOTOS.



Lissa deGuzman as Guinevere and Karl Josef Co as Lancelot in Camelot.

by **Melissa De La Vega**

Virtues, romance and chivalry are alive as ever as the marvelous and majestic tale of "Camelot" opened last week at the Cape Playhouse in Dennis. The timeless masterpiece is an award winning musical by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe and was adapted in the 1950s from a novel by David Lee. The original Broadway production of "Camelot" debuted in 1960 and featured Hollywood royalty Richard Burton, Julie Andrews and Robert Goulet, ultimately winning a remarkable four Tony Awards.

Making his debut at the Playhouse, Josh Walden directs this fresh take on "Camelot." Walden is best known for his choreography and directing work on the Tony-nominated Broadway revival of "Ragtime." Why is the story of Camelot so relevant today, 60 years later? Waldren notes that "it is to remind audiences of King Arthur and his unending pursuit of truth, fairness and never losing sight of our greatest asset- humanity."

The stage comes alive with an immense oak tree, adorned with gorgeous real oak leaves that were painted white, and is

DETAILS "Camelot"

**At Cape Playhouse,
Route 6A, Dennis
Through Aug. 26
Information and tickets:
508-385-3911,
capeplayhouse.com**

the main focal point of the simple, but beautiful stage. The story of "Camelot" transports us back in time to the legendary Knights of the Round Table, Merlin, Excalibur and the dangerous love triangle between King Arthur, Sir Lancelot, and Queen Guenevere. Jonathan Burke, as King Arthur, is magnetic in this role. The young knight and right arm of the king, Sir Lancelot, played by Karl Josef Co,

brings humor, angst and lovability to his character. Together, Burke and Co are a wonderfully matched duo with a fresh mix of charm and a sense of modern-day nobility. Making her Cape Playhouse debut, Lissa deGuzman's breathtaking voice and effortless grace on stage as Queen Guenevere was a pure delight to watch. The illegitimate son to King Arthur, Mordred, played by George Pearson Roberts,

threatens to challenge the throne and shake things up in the kingdom. Roberts, with his sly charm and high energy, oozes cool deviousness in this role. The eight-person cast is rounded out with these remarkably talented actors whose roles also double as "Revelers": Glenn Giron (Dinadan), Kiani Nelson (Sagramore), and Antonia Vivino (Tom).

The music in "Camelot" is directed by Dan Pardo, a NYC-based pianist, music director and arranger, and the show features a seven piece orchestra that includes: Arthur Bakopolus (flute), Jared Holaday (flute), David Rufino (french horn), Tessa Sacamone (violin), Elizabeth Schultze (cello), Greg Holt (bass) and Greg Simonds (percussion). Audiences will delight in the memorable and whimsical fairytale songs like "What Do the Simple Folk Do," "If Ever I Would Leave You," "I Loved You Once in Silence," and the title song, "Camelot."

As the title song goes, "there's simply not a more congenial spot for happily-ever-aftering than here in Camelot. Camelot! Camelot!" The story, the songs, and the scenery are all stunning in this production; score tickets soon before this show ends!

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