



Ivoryton Playhouse

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Press Release

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“They’re Playing Our Song” at the Ivoryton Playhouse

Book by Neil Simon, Music by Marvin Hamlisch
& Lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager

Ivoryton, CT: *They're Playing Our Song*, which opens in Ivoryton on June 18 and ran for 1082 performances on Broadway (from 2/11/1979 - 9/6/1981 and starred Lucie Arnaz and Robert Klein). The show's book by Neil Simon, the only musical he wrote from scratch, was seeded by the real life romance of the show's composer, Marvin Hamlisch, and lyricist, Carole Bayer Sager. They were married at the time of the opening -- though the show's happily ever after ending didn't apply to their relationship. Simon fictionalized the Hamlisch/Sager romance so that a composer named Vernon Gersch needs a new lyricist, who turns out to be madcap Sonia Walsk. Their first notes are out of tune. She's awed by Vernon's Oscar and Emmy awards. He's put off by her disorganized ways and unimpressed by the cast-off peasant dress from a production of *The Cherry Orchard* she dons for their first meeting. It's clearly not a match made in heaven - - at least not until the final curtain.

The book is Neil Simon at his funniest, with his typical brand of rapid fire dialogue
“Did I do something to make you nervous? ---Vernon
You won 3 Emmies and an Oscar ---Sonia”

This exchange during Vernon and Sonia's first meeting brings into the play one of their numerous problems, competition. Her directness goes counter to his more restrained tendencies, so that he circumvents one of her questions with "*You don't just divulge your whole personality. It comes out a little at a time, like toothpaste*"

The cast includes Michael Nathanson* as Vernon Gersch and Amy Lee Williams* as Sonia Walsk. Nathanson was last seen at the Playhouse in *The Sunshine Boys* in 2006. He has recently finished touring with Disney's *The Lion King* and is thrilled to back in Ivoryton this summer. Amy Lee Williams was last seen here with the River Rep in their 2003 production of *Follies*. The play will be directed by Playhouse Associate Artistic Director Julia Kiley, set design by Mike Meister and lighting design by Tate Burmeister.

They're Playing Our Song opens on June 18 and runs thru July 6 for 3 weeks, Performance times are Wednesday and Sunday matinees at 2pm. Evening performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday at 8pm. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$20 for students and \$15 for children and are available by calling the Playhouse box office at 860-767-7318 or by visiting our website at www.ivorytonplayhouse.org .(Group rates are available by calling the box office for information.) The Playhouse is located at 103 Main Street in Ivoryton.

**Members of Actors Equity*

Members of the press are welcome at any performance.

Please call ahead for tickets.

