



HELEN L. MONTOYA/CONEXION

'La Cinderella' uses San Antonio landmarks and history to make the play relevant to local children and writer Richard Rosen hopes to help them understand changes that might occur in their households.

Local turns story on its ear

'La Cinderella' gives S.A. flavor to classic

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Conexión

Creators of "La Cinderella," a bilingual stage version of the classic fairytale, want the musical play to showcase San Antonio's diversity and culture while reflecting today's families.

"La Cinderella" writer and director Richard Rosen said the finished product, which he wrote in 2004, does just that.

"We just threw all those elements in a boiling pot and it worked," Rosen said backstage at the Magik Theatre in HemisFair Park where "La Cinderella" runs through Saturday, Nov. 17.

"It's serious, yet funny. Children will be entertained but it will give families a chance to

CATCH IT!

What: 'La Cinderella,' a bilingual take on the classic fairytale. This version is set in colonial San Antonio to give audiences an informal history lesson on the founding of the city.

When: Production runs through Nov. 17; Showtimes are 9:45 a.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 9:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Fridays; 2 p.m. Saturdays

Where: Magik Theatre, 420 S. Alamo St. inside HemisFair Park

How much: Tickets \$2 to \$10. Group rates available.

For more: Call (210) 227-2751 for reservations

talk about some things," Rosen said, referring to his play's dialogue about families dealing with parents remarrying and combining households.

"La Cinderella" tells the story of Ella, a teenaged girl dealing with her father's new marriage and the addition of a stepmother and stepsisters to her house.

Ella is visited by her fairy padrino named Father Marjillo, the name of the

first priest at Mission San Jose. This is just one of the twists to the classic Cinderella fairytale that Rosen created to reflect San Antonio's history and to add some Latino flavor to the production.

Actors, some in gender-crossing roles, recite dialogue that mixes Spanish and English. Two characters are named Marta and Pepito. There are references to historical sites in San Antonio, including the Spanish Governor's Palace.

To add some humor to the play, Rosen cast men to portray Ella's mean stepsisters, dressing them in gowns and over-the-top hair and makeup.

"We knew we could get away with this and it wouldn't be men in drag. It's silly and fun," said Rosen, who also wrote the lyrics for the play's musical numbers. Mark Johnson wrote the music.

The current production of "La Cinderella" is the third time Rosen's play has been produced.

"Each time it's been a little different," Rosen said. "Each time it's been enjoyable for children, but it reaches adults." mrenteria@conexionsa.com