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Putting It Together in Sierra Madre

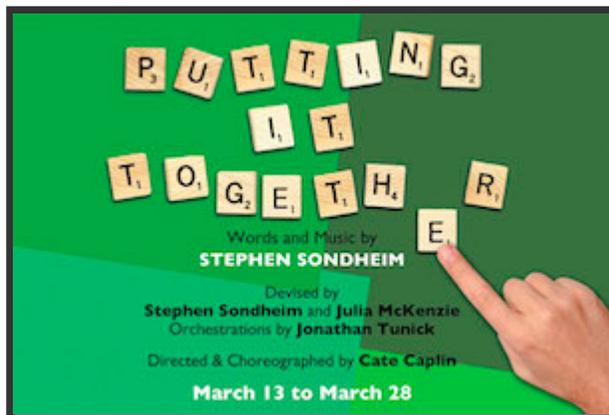
Written by Sharon Laine

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From its opening song to its closing farewell, *Putting It Together* provides viewers with a rousing good time. Through the creative interweaving of Stephen Sondheim's songs, an engaging story evolves that follows a flawed, yet lovable group of five as they navigate the turbulent waters of their relationships with one another at a Manhattan cocktail party. This musical delight, directed by Cate Caplin, is running now through March 28, 2015 at the Sierra Madre Playhouse.



Stephen Sondheim is undeniably one of the last half-century's most acclaimed and respected composers having won seven Tony Awards and an Oscar. First performed in 1992, *Putting it Together* made its way to New York within just one year and remains one of his most beloved works.

The small, intimate design of the Sierra Madre Playhouse is the ideal venue for *Putting it Together*, the type of show in which the actors often interact and engage with the audience. Upon the opening scene, the audience is immediately called to attention as Man 3 rushes into the party, but not

before stopping to give us a rundown on what is to follow.

The efforts of set designer Sarah Krainin, lighting designer Phillip Powers, and costume designer Michael Mullen are noted. Opting for simple finishes, their efforts allow for the show's focus to remain squarely on the musical talents of the entire ensemble.

Although the piano overpowers the singers on occasion, the actors each give dynamic performances. Kurt Andrew Hansen, Rachel Hirshee, Mike Irizarry, Chris Kerrigan and Kristin Towers-Rowles lead viewers through nearly 30 of Sondheim's songs. The ever-present score of songs that run throughout the show is what makes

Putting It Together a high-energy performance. Even more, it is what keeps the audience in a high state of anticipation, wondering what's next to come. CPANEL

While all actors provide stand out performances, Kristin Towers-Rowles delivers an exceptional one. Playing the Trophy Wife, she has no problem commanding attention. Both her comedic timing and strong voice sweep the audience up in the fun of the story.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse sits in the heart of Sierra Madre, just east of Pasadena. The city's small-town-feel is enhanced by numerous "Mom and Pop" shops and restaurants, such as Wisteria Restaurant and Peppertree Grill, both of which are great choices for those who want to make seeing *Putting It Together* a total destination event by grabbing a delicious meal at one of these original restaurants within walking distance of the theater.

The Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., in Sierra Madre. *Putting It Together* runs through March 28. Show times are Fridays at 8:00 pm, Saturday afternoons at 2:30 pm, Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm, and Sundays at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$28.00 for adults, \$25.00 for seniors (65 and up), \$18.00 for students, and \$15.00 for kids (12 and under). For reservations, call (626) 355-4318, or purchase tickets online at www.sierramadreplyhouse.org. The estimated running time of the show is 96 minutes with one 15-minute intermission. Parking is free and there is plenty of it.

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