

## Not Just for Geeks!

- by Jenny Platt

Whether or not you've ever stood "geek to geek" with the hoards of fan boys, dungeon masters, furies and Goths at San



Diego's legendary annual Comic-Con, *Geeks! The Musical* is an entertaining production designed to give you the full experience of a sci-fi convention, minus the acne and B.O. You can almost smell the sweat and make-up of the dealer room floor as you enter the tiny theatre, walls plastered with posters of *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars*, the music of *Superman* providing a triumphant serenade as you make your way to your seat.

The first full-length production written by Thomas J. Misuraca, *Geeks! The Musical* is the charming – and frighteningly realistic – story of geek Jordan (*Jonathan Brett*) and girl Kerry (*Redetha Deason*) who meet while searching for treasured issues of their favorite comics.

Their shared love of sci-fi television show *Planet Wars* brings them together and the two make plans to meet up after Comic-Con panels for their very first date. However, a run-in with her idol, former TV star Mel Tyler (*Richard Lewis Warren*), throws a boulder in the path of Kerry's budding relationship. Without Jordan's phone number, Kerry is forced to rely on her best friend, flamboyant

hater Emerson (*Wil Bowers*), to relay to Jordan's best friend Chip (*Tyler Koster*) that she won't be able to make it to dinner. Throw in dark artist types Audrina (*Juliette Angeli*) and Trey (*Brandon Murphy Barnes*), a few ballads, a Geek Chorus and some lively choreography, and you've got a hilarious graphic novel set at the nerdiest convention on earth. Gender preferences are questioned, personalities clash and creepiness ensues, all while two socially awkward twenty-somethings attempt to connect in holy comic matrimony.

I can't say enough about Misuraca's writing. From *Doctor Who* to *Buffy*, *Dungeons and Dragons* and *WoW*, nearly every geeky reference that can be made is mentioned in this musical. Misuraca's jokes are solid even when they're subtle and "insider," as in Audrina's choice of curse word, "Oh, Cthulhu." Best of all, the music in this production is upbeat and professional, with clever lyrics made all the more fun by the phenomenal Geek Chorus. My favorite numbers included "A Girl at Comic Con," "Who's Who of Doctor Who," and "I Hate It." I dare you to not laugh at these three priceless songs!

And going back to the Geek Chorus, kudos to director Bennett Cohon for giving each member of the cast something fitting to do, even if some of the characters nearly upstaged the leads! Geek Sebastian Munoz captured the hearts of the audience with his nerdy antics and slapstick physical humor, and I found it difficult not to watch as two members of the chorus slowly touched hands and leaned in, but never quite kissed.



The ensemble on the whole was great so it's hard to pick favorites, but best singer goes to Juliette Angeli, whose last name encapsulates the way her heavenly voice floated above the rest: angelic. Most sassy goes to Wil Bowers for reminding me of my exceptionally critical gay best friend from high school, and for most melodramatic, I award Tyler Koster for his adorably hilarious sidekick breakdowns.

If there's just one thing I would critique about *Geeks! The Musical*, it's that Act One is far too long and some jokes and characters don't really drive the plot forward. However, I truly enjoyed every minute of the show and wholeheartedly believe that with a few minor revisions, it's got serious potential to open in one of LA's more prestigious playhouses someday soon.

So put on your dorkiest video game t-shirt, grab your D&D companions and head to Hollywood's Write Act Rep Theatre for a show with in-the-know references, catchy tunes and a cute story you won't soon forget.

*Geeks! The Musical* runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm through March 17<sup>th</sup>. Tickets can be purchased by calling (323) 469-3113 or (323) 960-7770 or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).