

Troupe-Adore to host Valentine's Day variety show

Written By **MARNI WALSH**

Troupe-Adore is pulling out all the stops for their third annual Valentines' show 'What's Love Got to Do with It?' with a nine course meal. The show plays on Feb. 10 at the Shelburne Curling Club.

Troupe-Adore owner, Sohayla Smith says the show, scheduled to run from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., will feature comedic skits, musical comedy, stand up comedy, and a fabulous dinner for \$40 all inclusive.

Directed by Josh Oatman, with sound and lights by Adrian Smith, the cast includes some familiar faces from Troupe-Adore's previous dinner shows including Jason Riedel, Michelle White and Danielle Gamache.

Talented youth performers in the show will include returning Troupe-Adore performers Sammy Cowell from Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) and elementary student, Claire Bouzane. Young home school student Roxton Smith will join the cast, and Kelly Werner will team up with her daughter Ashley for a musical performance.

As producer, Sohayla Smith says the young performers 'are doing a great job exploring comedic options for the production.' She says, 'They enjoy the improv-infused format, and creative freedom that our productions allow them - as well as the skills they gain from working with more experienced actors.'

For those who have attended Troupe-Adore's dinner shows in the past, Sohayla Smith says, the company is 'expanding beyond our usual variety format, inviting stand up, and more skits this year.' She says, 'The variety show is a twist from your standard lovey-dovey valentines - we poke fun at love.'

According to the company, Josh Oatman has written two skits involving himself, Michelle White, Claire Bouzane, and Jason Riedel.

'Josh loves the directing role he gets to take on,' says Sohayla Smith. 'He enjoys the creative freedom to develop themes and concepts, then implements them in our Troupe-Adore variety show format.' Michelle White will be the comedic MC for the evening, 'taking on the responsibility of keeping the flow and helping the show along.'

'We are a very easy going team, but we all work hard,' says Sohayla Smith. 'Our number one priority is for everyone to enjoy working with us, so we strive for that camaraderie. First rehearsal was a hoot!'

Sohayla Smith, known for her delicious meals at the Troupe's dinner shows as well as Soup Haus, says, 'I enjoy the culinary arts of it - always a new challenge...five courses is so yesterday, so we're doing nine! (Including a vegetarian option.) I had a long list of foods I wanted to make, and I just didn't want to cut anything off of the menu... I love to feed people. So, I am challenging myself with this production to go above and beyond what I have done in past years food-wise.'

Dufferin County Readers' Choice Platinum winner Mad River Photography is shooting the production this year; Patricia Huckfield is the culinary photographer; and CDDHS student Katelyn Barnhart is the videographer. Katrina Kapitan is on for make-up; Wesley Lomond is on stage set up; and many more helping hands will be behind the scenes including Sam Fizzard and Kaden, Adam Cooper and more.

'What's Love Got to Do with It?' runs for one show only on Sunday, February 10th at the Curling Club dining room at 110 O'Flynn Street in Shelburne. For tickets visit www.eventbrite.com.