

Not So Common Players

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Once Upon
a Mattress



2 July 2010

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

July 16, 17, 18 and 22, 23, 24, 25

7:30 PM on the Clifton Common

For Immediate Release

The **NOT SO COMMON PLAYERS** are in rehearsals for our summer 2010 production, **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS**, directed by Sky Vogel with musical direction by David Rossi and choreography by Kevin McNamara. In addition, the company has been lucky to have additional assistance with circus theatrics for the production, provided by Sean Fagan. Rounding out the production staff with set design is Peter Kantor.

Of course the collaboration of all these fine people needs a fantastic cast, and this cast won't disappoint! Starring as Princess Winifred is Christine Verderese, and as Prince Dauntless the Drab is Mike Mensching. Dauntless' parents, Queen Aggravain and King Sextimus the Silent are being played by Janice Walz and Kevin McNamara. Sir Harry and Lady Larken are portrayed by David DiPaolo and Laura Tortorici, along with Rick Reed as the Minstrel, Michael Camelo as the Jester, and Tom Heckert as the Wizard. An additional 25 cast members make up the ensemble of Knights, Gentlemen, and Ladies in Waiting (and waiting....)!

Once Upon a Mattress is the farcical, musical telling of the fable "The Princess and the Pea." It takes place in an enchanted kingdom during a time of damsels, castles, swords, wizards, and other medieval madness.

As our story begins, we learn of the poor prince's pitiable predicament. It seems Her Royal Highness, the Queen has rather royal high standards for her heir. What's more, she has decreed that until there is held a royal wedding there will be no nuptials of any kind! Naturally, the townspeople (certainly the eligible ladies and gents) are rather anxious at this unnatural state of affairs...or... er...lack of affairs. Sir Harry, determined to find a true princess for Dauntless, sets off for, until now, unexplored parts, and returns with Princess Winnifred. She arrives, dripping wet, having swum the moat, and proceeds to act as unlike a princess as one could possibly imagine. Prince Dauntless is very impressed by the new princess and is soon obviously in love with her - to the consternation of the angry Queen, who decides to give her an impossible test. If you know the story of the Princess and the Pea, then you know how it ends, but the hilarious twists and turns in this musical favorite will make it worth your while to come cheer our princess and prince on to wedded bliss.

ONCE UPON A MATTRESS runs **July 16-18 and July 22-25 at 7:30 pm**, at the outdoor stage at Clifton Common. Make plans now to attend the must-see show of Summer 2010!

For information: Pat O'Donnell- 371-6681; Sally Burke- 877-5648; Barbara Davis-Dickman-899-8230.