



Dunwoody Dispatch

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Jerry's Habima Theatre Presents Xanadu, Jr.



Left to Right (back): Michelle Crystal, Bess Winebarger, Jesse Thomas-Durden and (front) Patrick Robinson

Jerry's Habima Theatre at the Marcus Jewish Community Center opens its 26th groundbreaking season with "Xanadu, Jr." This musical starts on March 7th and is a rollicking story full of "'80s nostalgia, a forbidden love and chaos abounding." It also contains romance, art and dancing in an ideal entertainment for the whole family.

The Habima Theatre is unique in Atlanta. It brings together professional actors from the community and talented adult actors with special needs to

present musical theatrical productions. It is a program of the MJCCA and is produced under the auspices of the Center's Blonder Family Department for Special Needs. Jerry's Habima Theatre has been the recipient of several prestigious honors in recent years, including the "Spirit of Suzi Bass Award," as well as being a three time recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts [NEA] "Challenge America Grant."

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According to Rachel Fox Weitz, production chair, "Making art is a journey that includes overcoming obstacles and staying positive. This message is loud and clear in this light-hearted, campy combination of classic '80s tunes and Greek mythology. Audiences will root for the power of the arts, the inspiration of love – all while singing along to 'I'm Alive,' 'Xanadu,' 'Magic,' and many more." The large cast includes 26 "principal roles" and an ensemble.

The production of Xanadu, JR runs for two weekends [Thurs., Sat. and Sun.], March 7-10 and March 14-17 with two performances on the Sundays. They are held in the MJCCA's Morris & Rae Frank Theatre at 5342 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody. Tickets range from \$10 [MJCCA children under 12 of members] to \$35 for the community [\$15 for children 12 and under]. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 678-812-4002 or visit www.atlantaajcc.org/habima.

– *Dick Funderburke*