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Great balls of fire! Del Mar Drama's production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' set to boldly go where no man has gone before April 10-11 and 16-18

Musical's five-night run in Bartlett Theatre promises loads of fun with plenty of chances to join in and lend your voice to the spectacle!

Be sure to warm up those vocal cords in the shower before joining in during Del Mar Drama's Spring production, "Return to the Forbidden Planet," starting mid-April! The high-energy musical plays over the course of two weekends, including Friday and Saturday, April 10-11, and Thursday through Saturday, April 16-18.

Blending Shakespeare's "The Tempest" with campy Sci-fi movies from the 1950s, along with plenty of classics from the golden age of rock 'n' roll, 'Forbidden Planet' is sure to provide loads of fun as you blast off on a routine flight and crash into the planet D'Ilyria, where the adventure unfolds to a soundtrack of nostalgic AM gold, such as "Great Balls of Fire," "Good Vibrations," "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," "Teenager in Love" and even that good ole' Halloween chestnut "Monster Mash."

Each performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in Bartlett Theatre located in the Fine Arts Center on the Heritage Campus (101 Baldwin Blvd., 78404). [Get online directions and campus map](#). Tickets range from \$5 to \$15 and are available online at delmardrama.ludus.com/ or at the Drama Box Office beginning at 6:30 p.m. before each night.

The April 16 performance is "Student Night – students can get one free ticket when presenting a valid current high school/DMC/Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi ID at the box office. In addition, there will be post-show receptions on April 10, 11 and 16.

"Return to the Forbidden Planet" is presented by arrangement with [Concord Theatricals](#). Patrons are advised the production may contain mature content that may not be suitable for younger audience members.

Questions? Contact the DMC Art & Drama Department Office at 361-698-1216 or email drama@delmar.edu.

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Loosely riffing on *The Tempest*, the musical follows a dashing space captain, a brainy scientist, his sheltered daughter and a robot with more personality than half the crew. They're zipping through the galaxy when—surprise!—they end up stranded on a mysterious planet where strange forces, questionable decisions and unresolved emotional baggage start wreaking havoc. Add in a jukebox of classic rock 'n' roll hits, and suddenly existential dread comes with a dance number.

Things escalate quickly: jealous monsters, love triangles with all the subtlety of a white-hot guitar solo and a lot of dramatic staring into space with the scientist's inner demons literally taking center stage, proving that therapy might've been cheaper than interstellar research. Meanwhile, the plucky robot steals scenes, hearts and probably some spare parts.

"The mix of classic rock 'n' roll songs with Shakespeare-inspired text and story is an interesting aspect of the play," says Carl Yowell, DMC Professor of Drama and the production director, noting: "This is the first time that Dell Mar Drama has staged 'Return to the Forbidden Planet,' and the cast has been diligently rehearsing scenes on weekday evenings with additional music rehearsals as schedules permit."

He adds, "The cast and crew is looking forward to staging a musical that may not be familiar to local audiences, and singing along with the cast is encouraged."

Casting for the planet's inhabitants includes **Brennen Bellows** as the sinister scientist Dr. Prospero, **Finley Hobar** as his delightful daughter Miranda and **Kallyn Garcia** as the faithful robot Ariel. For those crashing on the forbidden planet, the crew is played by **Grant Sykora** as Captain Tempest, **Natalie Palacios** as the Science Officer, **Paul Farias** as Cookie, **Rett Hobart** as the Navigational Officer and **Ricky Syrre** as Bosun, along with the Ship's Crew/Puppeteers played by **James Buck**, **Keanu Domini**, **Arayanna Flore** and **Spencer Lopez**.

In addition to the production's actors, other students are providing technical support from the set construction/lighting class (DRAM1120) and the costume and makeup practicum class (DRAM 1121).

"To help bring the production to life, about 15 students collectively provide the technical support, along with part-time student shop assistants," Yowell says.

Whether you fancy classic rock n' roll, 1950s B-flick Sci-fi or the chance to sing along with the cast, Del Mar Drama's production of "Return to the Forgotten Planet" may prove to take you far beyond you ever thought you could go ... and all in one fun-filled evening!

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