

I Ought to be in Pictures rekindles the father, daughter relationship through a series of funny blows

BY SARAH GRAY
Staff Writer

Last year, while I was trying to think of an original gift to give my dad for Father's Day, I happened to come across an ad for the play, *You Can't Take It With You*.

It was being performed that night by a local community col-

lege, and was exactly the thing I was hoping to find.

Ever since I could remember, my dad has reminisced about acting in that play when he was a senior in high school.

Not only did I get to give my dad a chance to revisit a favorite memory, I was also able to share some of his memory with him, not to mention we spent some time together doing something other than watching *NYPD Blue* or a *Laker's* game.

While not all Father's Day gift ideas land in our laps as easily as that one did for me, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, being performed at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts offers a great alternative to the lack-

luster world of ties when it comes to gift giving for our fathers.

Neil Simon is the author of plays like *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (1983), *Biloxi Blues* (1985), and *Broadway Bound* (1986), an autobiographical trilogy, as well as the Pulitzer Prize-winning, *Lost in Yonkers* (1991).

I Ought to be in Pictures, consisting of only three characters, explores a rekindled father-daughter relationship and is considered by some critics to be one of Simon's funniest and "most honest" plays; "a finely tuned theatrical blend of hilarity and emotion."

Veteran stage, screen and Television actor Gregory Itzin plays the role of Herb, father and Hollywood screenwriter down on his luck.

He has performed in virtually every major theatre and theatre company in Los Angeles and for the past six years has been a member of The Matrix Theatre Company.

He has had numerous recurring roles in several TV series and a long list of movie credits, including the soon to be released, *Original Sin* and *Evolution*.

Amy Brewczynski plays Libby, Herb's strong-willed nineteen year-old daughter, fresh from the streets of Brooklyn.

She makes her La Mirada debut after performing in the NoHo Arts District and acting in a lead role in the independent film, *Midnight Eve*.

Steffy, Herb's on-again, off-again girlfriend and Hollywood make-up artist, is played by Bonita Friedericy, who has had numerous television roles in shows like



Amy Brewczynski as Libby, Bonita Friedericy as Steffy and Gregory Itzin star in La Mirada Theatre's *I Ought to be in Pictures*

Dharma and Greg and *Spin City*.

She will also appear in Steven Spielberg's upcoming film, *Minority Report*.

I Ought to be in Pictures comically looks at a daughter's-and father's coming of age journey.

Even with laughter dispersed throughout its entirety, there are major themes present that involve relating with family, struggling with commitment, and encountering difficulties when trying to make a dream career a realistic means of surviving.

The play also shows how possible it is for youth to influence the "grown-up" world.

In *I Ought to be in Pictures*, Libby gives her father the ultimate gift, a lesson on how to dream.

I Ought to be in Pictures runs through June 17; Tuesday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact the La Mirada Theatre box office at (714) 994-6150.