

Dayton City Paper®

Mixing Arts, Culture & News Weekly

VOLUME 11 ■ NUMBER 41 ■ OCTOBER 14 - 20, 2014 ■ FREE! ■ DAYTONCITYPAPER.COM



Not your average Joe

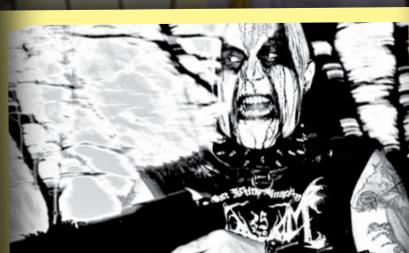
JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT AT THE SCHUSTER

BY: JENNIFER HANAUER LUMPKIN // PG.22

PHOTO: DANIEL A. SWALEC



METRO 15
Dayton Regional Science Festival



SOUNDBYTE 20
Dayton's Enoonmai



DINING 31
La Colombiana in Beavercreek



CENTERFOLD PULLOUT
Destination Yellow Springs

NOT JUST ANY DREAM WILL DO

Newlyweds Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young talk *Joseph*

By Jennifer Hanauer Lumpkin

More than 40 years ago, Andrew Lloyd Webber created what would become one of the most beloved musical theatre pieces to hit Broadway. With lyrics by Tim Rice, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* tells the biblical story of Joseph and his journey to becoming Israel's favorite son. With new direction and choreography from Tony Award winner Andy Blankenbuehler, whose visual style incorporates tremendous movement, *Joseph* is attracting a new generation of fans. The U.S. tour kicked off earlier this year and will be performed at Dayton's Schuster Center from Oct. 21-26.

This is not just your grandma's *Joseph*. This is also your mom's, daughter's, great-grandpa's, Uncle Luis's and the neighbor lady's *Joseph*. It holds wonders for everyone. While longtime fans will enjoy traditional favorites like "Those Canaan Days" and "Any Dream Will Do," the younger generation will find theatrical kindred spirits in the chuck-wearing, MacBook-toting, slang-slinging ensemble as they bop their way through the story of Joseph and his 11 brothers using hip-hop, pop, rock and country-western as their musical vehicles. Throw in a little green-eyed jealousy, a snappy coat, the horrors of slavery and a bastion of divination and you've got all the components for an epic tale of self-discovery and redemption.

Featured in this production are Broadway and television stars Ace Young as Joseph and Diana DeGarmo as The Narrator. Following Young's surprise proposal to DeGarmo during the season 11 finale broadcast of *American Idol*, the couple wed in June 2013 and began the U.S. tour of *Joseph* this past March. In anticipation of *Joseph*'s weeklong run in Dayton, the newlyweds took time to speak with *Dayton City Paper* about life on the road and on stage.

HAS THIS EXTENDED TWO OF YOU

It basically tunity, in any sical theatre er and to be a great oppo pass up. And say that the it's not been est part, we s ana DeGarmo

MANY, MA COME.

We're hopin

I'VE HEARD YOU TWO LIKE TO KEEP BUSY. T YOU HAVE GOING ON.

We're creative multi-taskers. We're always writing mu or another. And if it's not an opportunity for television o doing it. It's interesting doing theatre in comparison to t So you have two to however many thousand in front o everybody with a full orchestra playing, with people run together. It's really a magical thing to make a real theatre

NO PRESSURE.

We enjoy the challenge. – AY
Also, on tour we made an EP. It's called *Young & Free*. when they leave they can take a little taste of us home, o

PEOPLE LOVE JOSEPH, BUT THEY ALSO REA

We're really fortunate. We feel like we've been able to It has also introduced musical theatre fans to the talent o and we can do more than just sing. – DD

YOU BOTH HAVE HAD JOSEPH IN YOUR LIVE SEE A PRODUCTION WITH YOUR GRANDFATH DIANA, WHEN YOU WERE IN THE CHILDREN? NEW ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION?

Andy Blankenbuehler. He's a true visionary... We like t the limits of what we can create on stage with the produc production-wise, that we couldn't do even three years ag of Andy Blankenbuehler. He's a Tony award winner for a life, and he did it the right way. He went to Andrew Lloy blessing and then he also asked for his approval for certa him every approval that he asked for. He really is giving the people that have loved *Joseph* for 30 years,

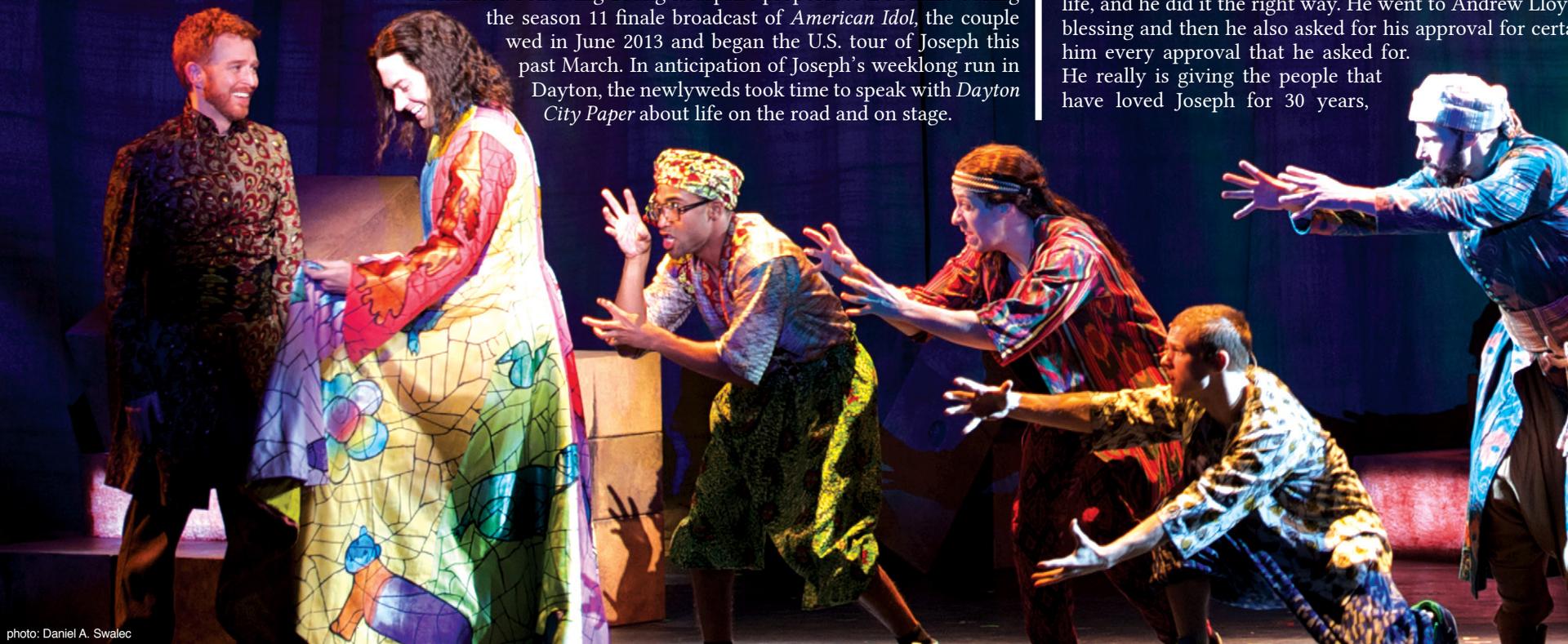


photo: Daniel A. Swalec

**BEEN LIKE AN
D HONEYMOON FOR THE
OU?**

is. It's such a unique oppor-
world but especially the mu-
world, to get to work togeth-
on tour together. It was such
rtunity that we just couldn't
, you know, people joke, they
first year is the hardest, and
too bad! So if this is the hard-
should be good from here. - Di-

ANY MORE GREAT YEARS TO

ng so! - DD

TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT THE PROJECTS

music for ourselves. We're always being creative, one way
r film, then we're locking into theatre and having a blast
television because in theatre you don't get another take.
f you and you're doing a live stream movie in front of
ining lights and cues and everything going off as timing
e piece like *Joseph* happen. - Ace Young

So people may come to the show to see Ace and Diana,
f our music. - DD

ALLY LOVE THE TWO OF YOU.

bring some *Idol* fans over into the musical theatre world.
of other Idols. I mean, it's a really great group of people,

**S FOR A LONG TIME. ACE, YOU GOING TO
HER WHEN YOU FIRST MOVED TO L.A., AND
S CHOIR. WHAT IS DIFFERENT OR**

o think of him as our Joseph. He has really pushed
tion of 2014 and 2015. We're doing things on stage,
go. It's really amazing to see the creative aspects
a reason. He really brought this to
d Webber and he asked for his
ain things, and Andrew gave

**"We're doing
things on stage,
production wise, that
we couldn't do even
three years ago. It's
really amazing to see the
creative aspects of Andy
Blankenbuehler. He's a
Tony Award winner
for a reason."**

- Ace Young

he's giving them what they love, and he's also giving newcomers, children and people who are
new to musical theatre, really a vibrant, interactive, very, very active show. - AY

**WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO BE AROUND FOR THIS EXCITING ERA IN
MUSICAL THEATRE. DIANA, AS A PERFORMER IN THE CHILDREN'S
CHOIR, YOU IDOLIZED THE NARRATOR.**

I did. I lucked out, already knowing most of the words by the time I got this job. Ace
said he learned a few colors that he didn't even know existed. He's like, "I knew red and
blue and green and that was about it." - DD

What is azure? - AY

"What is this azure color we keep speaking of?" Having a part in the show for almost my
entire life, it is funny how the universe brings you back around full circle. To be in a role that
I have idolized for so long, it's a blessing. I love what I do. I love that I get to interact with the
audience. I love that I get to literally and figuratively be in your world and in this story.

And our cast and crew, we really are a family, and I think when you see the show, people feel that
from us. We're not just a bunch of people out in the middle of the road slapping together something and
just trying to get by. We genuinely have a good time.

Andy really focused on making sure that each of the brothers had their own personality, had their own thoughts,
their own views. So when you come to the show, you're not just seeing a group of guys on stage. He made sure
that Ace had his own portrayal of who he believes that Joseph is. Ace is the youngest of five boys,
so he has his own idea of brother camaraderie and things like that. And then he let me take on The
Narrator as my own self, which I think is fun.

There were no set rules that we
had to follow, and that was excit-
ing, one of the many reasons why
we wanted to do this, let alone
doing it together. We got to make
this production our own, and you
really feel that when you see the
show. We feel it as a company. It's
something we're all very proud of
to show off every night. - DD



Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young play The Narrator and Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*

**EIGHT SHOWS A WEEK
FOR MONTHS AND
MONTHS. DOES THE FACT
THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO TAKE THIS AND MAKE IT YOUR OWN HELP KEEP IT FROM
BEING A GRIND?**

Most definitely. And traveling helps, too, because we get to see new faces. There have been a couple theatres
that have been open and outside where there were 6,000 people in front of you and you're starting as the sun
is going down. It's totally a different feel than a lot of things that we've done, even on Broadway.

And it can be a grind. What you have to do is you have to look at it like an athlete would,
and treat it where you really take care of your body. You drink enough water. You

CONTINUED ON PG.25...



NOT JUST ANY DREAM WILL DO

Continued from page 23



Ryan Williams as Pharaoh, and Company in "Stone the Crows"; photo: Daniel A. Swalec

make sure you stretch before every show because we're doing a lot of athletic things on stage, and you have to take care of yourself while you're doing it. We like to fill in a yoga class here and there just to change it up and keep our bodies limber. I always make sure I hit the weights all the time so I don't just disappear on the stage and fade away. I lose a lot of water weight, and I want to make sure that I keep my strength. – AY

Yeah, it's so not fair, but whatever. It's good to remember that most people that are in the audience every night no matter where we're playing have never seen this show, let alone this version before. And we're getting to tell this story for the first time. This isn't a regular Tuesday that we're talking about in the story. This is a Tuesday that Joseph's brothers decided to betray him, and we have to make sure to get that betrayal across. And I love telling that story.

I feel like we've taken *Joseph*, this story that has been done every which way to Sunday over the last 30 years, and we've been able to really dig into the emotions, so you feel all the highs and you really feel the lows, and you're taken on this emotional journey. I really remember that most people have not heard or seen this version. You invest yourself personally in each performance. – DD

THE STORY OF JOSEPH HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO IN A LAND FAR AWAY. WHY DO YOU FEEL PEOPLE CONNECT SO MUCH TO THIS STORY?

There are many, many reasons, but I'll start with the human element. We all can be kind of lost sometimes. And when you have that moment when you have to remember who you are, remember why we're here, remember the dream. And that's Joseph's M.O. the entire story. He goes through a phase, like any person, he forgets who he is. And then he finds himself. And the connection with family and second chances, I think a lot of people can associate with.

And it's just a fun show! It's got something for everyone. It really does. It's a great show for kids. It's a great show for the great-grandparents. A great show for people who have maybe not seen a musical theatre piece before. It's not really long, so you don't have to worry about sitting in the theatre for three hours. It's a very upbeat, happy show. There are a lot of different types of music to keep

people interested. And it's just a really great night of entertainment. – DD

IT SOUNDS REALLY ACCESSIBLE.

Yeah, it's definitely a show you can bring everyone to. It's literally a show you can bring your youngest sibling all the way up to your great-grandparents, and everyone will enjoy some part of the show. It's not too often you see a show like that, and when we look out and see a whole family enjoying different bits and pieces of the show and afterwards coming over to the stage door and saying hello, it's pretty amazing to see how infectious that energy is and how excited everybody is when they leave the theatre. – AY

SO IS THIS GOING TO BE PEOPLE'S GATEWAY DRUG TO MUSICAL THEATRE?

Yeah! – DD
Most definitely. It's the perfect opening show for people who have never seen a musical theatre piece because there's no spoken dialogue. It's really all music. You're not sitting through a lot of monologues. It's really a beautiful story, and it's very easy to understand. We've had six-year-olds come up and tell us twists that we didn't know they would catch, and they got it! – AY

The Victoria Theatre Association presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* Oct. 21-26, with performances Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Schuster Center, 1 E. Second St. Tickets range from \$25 to \$97 and may be purchased in person at the box office, by phone at 937.228.3630 or online at ticketcenterstage.com. For more information about the production, please visit josephthemusical.com.

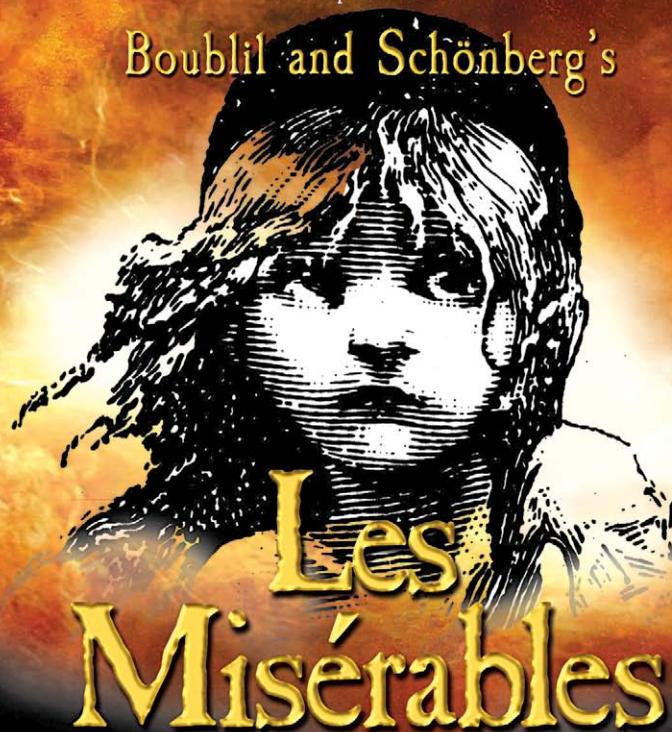


Reach DCP freelance writer Jennifer Hanauer Lumpkin at jenniferhanauerlumpkin@DaytonCityPaper.com. To read more from Jennifer Hanauer Lumpkin, visit her website at jennerlumpkin.com.

Miami Valley Symphony Orchestra
and
Dayton Playhouse

Present
A new production of

Boublil and Schönberg's



Les
Misérables

October 24 - 26, 2014

Dayton Masonic Center

Purchase tickets online at MVSO.ORG or call Dayton Playhouse box office at 937-424-8477.

Les Misérables is licensed by Music Theatre International (MTI) by arrangement with CAMERON MACKINTOSH LTD.

THE BALLROOM
AT THE TAFT THEATRE

The Ultimate, Intimate, Entertainment Experience!



TIG NOTARO

The Boyish Girl Interrupted Tour 2014
Friday October 24

Get tickets at TAFTTHEATRE.org, the Taft Theatre box office, Ticketmaster.com, and all Ticketmaster outlets including select Kroger stores. Charge by phone at 1.800.745.3000.

All tickets subject to applicable fees and day of show increase. Dates, times and artists subject to change without notice.

TAFTTHEATRE.org