



## DON'T HUG ME, I'M PREGNANT

### **Secret Rose Theatre**

Reviewed by Carol Kaufman Segal

The Olson Brothers, Phil and Paul, have done it again, given us a play that keeps us laughing throughout. Don't Hug Me, I'm Pregnant is the fourth in a series of plays written by Phil, music by Paul with lyrics by Phil. (Don't Hug Me, A Don't Hug Me Christmas, and A Don't Hug Me County Fair).

This one, as all others, takes place in Bunyan Bay, Minnesota, where you can count on the extremely cold weather and a snowfall (more likely a blizzard, or as Kanute says, a "tsnownami") to set the plot.

Clara Johnson (Rebekah) and husband Gunner (Patrick Foley), owners of The Bunyan Bar, are expecting guests to arrive for Clara's baby shower. She is 8 1/2 months pregnant with their first child and looking forward to all of her gifts. Waiting with them are their friends Kanute (a riotous Bert Emmett), Bernice (cute and spunky Natalie Lander) who Kanute wants to marry, and Aarvid (Greg Barnett) the one man Bernice wants.

When the snowstorm worsens, Clara realizes that there won't be any more gifts, that no one can get through the roads to attend the shower and no one can leave The Bunyan. Suddenly her "time" comes, and Gunner, who fainted at Lamaze class, realizes that he is going to have to deliver the baby. Will he come through for Clara (and himself)?

With hilarious lines and 17 uproarious songs, Don't Hug Me, I'm Pregnant is a laugh-a-minute, maybe even more. Directed by Doug Engalia, choreographed by Stan Mazin, the place is a cozy bar setting by Chris Winfield where we can almost feel the chill of the outdoors.

This is the world premiere of Don't Hug Me, I'm Pregnant, playing at the Secret Rose Theatre, 11246 Magnolia Blvd., in North Hollywood. It plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM, Sundays at 2 PM, where it will continue through November 20. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.donthugme.com](http://www.donthugme.com), or by calling (323) 822-7898.

Try using code "pregnant" for a special rate. Recommended.

Greg Barnett &  
Natalie Lander

