



By [Pat Taylor](#) on October 6th, 2011
Review

Don't Hug Me I'm Pregnant



From l, Bert Emmett as 'Kanute,' Rebekah Dunn as 'Clara,' and Patrick Foley as 'Gunner' in "Don't Hug Me, I'm Pregnant."

If you're up for a break from the woes of the world, and ready to laugh until your cheeks hurt... this is the one to catch! A whacky storyline, five hysterical actors, 17 zany songs, and a happy ending... What's not to love? Riotously written by Phil Olson (book and lyrics) and his brother Paul (music), this is the fourth in the series of maniacally funny "Don't Hug Me" musical romps. The first three have been published by Samuel French, and have run in over 100 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

Taking place in Bunyan Bay, Minnesota, in a little north woods bar call "The Bunyan," owned by Gunner and Clara Johnson, each one has been funnier and more outrageous than the last! (I've seen all of them.) Loaded with "Minnesota mentality," and small town charm, these zany characters don't seem to know there's a whole other world out there. This time around, Clara is 8 ½ months pregnant. Hormonally "out of control" and more than ready to deliver the "wee one," Clara is anxiously awaiting guests for her baby shower. When a freak snowstorm hits Bunyan Bay, with only the usual few "nutcakes" having arrived... they are snowed in, and everyone else is snowed out. In the midst of this "tsnownami," Clara goes into labor. Panic breaks out as the squeamish and goofy Gunner realizes he's going to have to deliver the baby himself.

Guttbustingly funny, the nonstop audience laughter was thunderous! Under the fast paced direction of Doug Engalla, the entire cast is frantically flawless, and the songs (accompanied by a most unusual Karaoke machine) are ingeniously riotous! This perfectly cast group of five actors had us laughing uncontrollably throughout! Patrick Foley plays the insensitive goofball, Gunner, and Rebecca Dunn is his loving but frustrated wife, Clara. In a small town "love triangle," Greg Barnett plays Aarvid, Natalie Lander plays the coveted Bernice, and in an insanely "over the top" performance, Bert Emmett plays Kanute. Lively and looney choreography by Stan Mazin, fabulously fun set design by Chris Winfield, and kooky costumes by Cheryl Crosland Butler, set the manic tone perfectly! If you're already a "Don't Hug Me" fan... I'll know you'll catch this one too. If you've never seen any of the others... it's high time you did! Book a seat today! Running at The Secret Rose through Nov. 30 located at 11246 Magnolia Blvd. in NoHo. For seats, call (323) 822-7898.