

MARILYN: FOREVER BLONDE FUNNY, SAD, WITTY, TITILLATING

By Sherry Dodd

Marilyn Monroe fans still have a chance to view this breathtaking one-woman show, *Marilyn Forever Blonde*, at the Stella Adler Theatre, 6773 Hollywood Blvd. until Sunday.

Starring Sunny Thompson, the play, conceived by her husband, producer/ writer Greg Thompson, is told in Monroe's own words and music – taken from statements, interviews and films.

Thompson, who embodies Monroe in the part and possesses an uncanny resemblance on stage (thanks to make-up design by famous Monroe impersonator Jimmy James), has been working for over a year to get the screen idol's voice and mannerisms down to a "t." Direction by Stephanie Shine is accurate and concise.

Telling Monroe's tale in two acts on the well-appointed bedroom set, Thompson changes clothes, struts, talks to the audience and sings some of Monroe's songs from her films, most noteworthy *Diamonds Are A Girl's Best Friend* and *Bye, Bye, Baby* from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, which practically brings down the house. She especially channels Monroe in this song, and it gives you goose bumps, as if you are personally witnessing the real thing. Other numbers include *I Wanna Be Loved By You* and *Runnin' Wild* from *Some Like It Hot*. The voice and all inflections are perfect.

The two act, two-hour play – though long in places – will not bore you. If you are a fan of Monroe, it's worth seeing. And if you have never seen her films and are uncertain as to what made her famous, this play has all the elements to satisfy your curiosity.

Well written and well acted, *Marilyn Forever Blonde* the play is funny, sad, witty, titillating, a bit scandalous, and heartbreaking to see the desperation of a woman lost in a world of Hollywood make-believe.

For tickets call: 800-595-4849, www.tickets.com, marilynforeverblonde.com