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 **STAGESTHEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS:**

 ***GREATER TUNA* JUNE 8TH-JUNE 24TH**
Fullerton, CA--STAGEStheatre is proud to present ***Greater Tuna***, by Ed Howard, Joe Sears, Jaston Williams and directed by Brian J. Cook. Greater Tuna is the classic comedy about the third smallest town in Texas where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies.

Although written and first performed over thirty years ago, the residents of Tuna could not be more up-to-date. Contemporary politicians and The Religious Right have put the basis for the comedy in Greater Tuna back on the front pages of today's newspapers. Vera Carp is still leading the Smut Snatchers of the New Order in their campaign to clear the library shelves of dirty books like Huckleberry Finn and ***Romeo and Juliet***. Elmer Watkins speaks up for the KKK, Petey Fisk argues for animal rights, and a Celebrity Murder is on the front page. UFO Sightings? A Fat, Overbearing Talk Show Host? Celebrity Murder? It's not the cover of Time Magazine, it's Greater Tuna!

"More than a decade before redneck humor became mainstream in the 1990's, ***Greater Tuna*** enjoyed worldwide success. Two actors met and created a theatrical phenomenon uniquely appealing to audiences from every corner of our pale blue dot. Since its 1981 inception, ***Greater Tuna*** has been paying homage to the great comedy teams of Laurel and Hardy & Abbott and Costello, with two actors using their very disparate body types to play twenty very diverse characters and all in less than two hours," says director and star of ***Greater Tuna***, Brian J. Cook.

"Greater Tuna, the first of four full-length plays set in the fictitious town of Tuna, Texas, is a bittersweet slice of American Apple Pie. Part ***Our Town*** and part ***Steel Magnolias***, the residents of the third smallest town in the Lone Star State may be bigger than life, but their day-to-day struggles are relatable - which allows us to see the underlying pathos amidst the comedy.

Whether you hail from the third largest town or the third smallest, ***Greater Tuna*** reminds us that we're more alike than different. And as disc jockeys Arles and Thurston remind the residents in the play's closing scene, "If you can find someplace you like better than Tuna . . . MOVE!"

With its humble beginnings at a Sixth Street cabaret in Austin, Texas in 1981, ***Greater Tuna*** came from the minds of master comedians Jaston Williams and Joe Sears, along with original director Ed Howard as the imaginative authors who parlayed the sketch into the critically acclaimed production which has entertained audiences across the country ever since.

Assisted by lightning-quick costume changes, the actors will portray all twenty-one characters: men, women, children and animals. This multi-award winning comedy is a funny, loving portrait of rural America--big hearts, small minds and all.

Starring in ***Greater Tuna***: Brian J. Cook and Andrew Villarreal

Tickets for ***Greater Tuna*** are $22.00, $20.00 for students and seniors.  Performances are June 8th- June 24th, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. For reservations please visit our website at [www.stagesoc.org](http://www.stagesoc.org/)

About STAGEStheatre: Celebrating its 26th  year in business, STAGEStheatre is one of Orange County's most innovative community theaters.  It produces nearly 15 productions annually, showcasing local playwriting, acting and directing talent.  STAGEStheatre is, and will continue to be, dedicated to the development of the artist.   It is located at 400 E. Commonwealth in Downtown Fullerton (between Lemon and Balcom).