

# 'MARRIED' BRINGS ST. CHARLES NATIVE BACK

BY KAREN SORENSEN

For GO

Matthew R. Jones' acting career has taken him from Broadway to Europe and points in between, but his latest role brings him back to the place where it all began — his hometown of St. Charles.

Jones is starring in Noble Fools' production of "Married Alive," running through Oct. 31 at St. Charles' Pheasant Run Resort Mainstage Theater. He plays Ron Parker, one half of an older married couple who observe a pair of young newlyweds as they negotiate the ups and downs of babies, jobs and other life changes that alter their "wedded bliss."

This is Jones' first stab at musical comedy after a long run of serious roles, including two on Broadway — the bandleader in the musical "Titanic" and Raoul in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," a role he also played in two na-

## MARRIED ALIVE!

**Where:** Pheasant Run Resort Mainstage Theater, 4501 E. Main St., St. Charles

**When:** Now through Oct. 31

**Times:** 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 5 and 8:30 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays (special matinee at 2 p.m. Sept. 3; no Thursday performances in October)

**How much:** \$28, Thursdays and Fridays; \$39, Saturdays and Sundays. Dinner show packages cost \$49 on Thursdays and \$59 on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Contact:** 630-584-6342; [www.noblefool.org](http://www.noblefool.org)



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**Parents Ron (Matthew R. Jones) and Diane (Anne Gunn), with unruly kids, Paul (Justin Berkobien) and Erin (Megan Long), star in "Married Alive" at Pheasant Run in St. Charles.**

tional touring productions. In a European tour of "Eyvita" he played Magaldi, and he has sung with the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Chicago Symphony, among others.

Although this is his Noble Fools debut, he has been on the Pheasant Run stage before, playing Che in a pro-

ducing his ailing grandmother, who has since died.

His parents still live there, his older brother lives in downtown Chicago, and he has a large extended family in the area.

"Married Alive!" is "exciting" not only because a four-person play means there's a good deal of dialog and music to remember, he says, but also because the production was put together in just three weeks.

"That's part of the excitement," he says. "(Director/choreographer) Rachel Rockwell is really smart and very well organized. The whole cast is very talented."

The never-married Jones says it's sometimes tough to acknowledge he's playing older roles, but jokes that he's been "fermenting" in preparation for the shift. And on a more serious note, he adds that he's grateful for any opportunity to go on stage.

"In this economy, work is work, and I've had wonderful

the character.

(Ron's) a little stodgy, a little cynical, but he's also terribly, desperately in love with his wife, even if he doesn't always show it."

Born and raised in St. Charles, Jones returned about a year ago to care for

about a year ago to care for

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