

3/29/2019

VER

The Drowsy Chaperone: a musical within a comedy!

By TARYN SIDNEY

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. —

Opening the 2019 theater season, the Springfield Community Players is wasting no time with the timeless musical, "The Drowsy Chaperone." In this parody of American musical comedy, we meet an asocial Broadway musical fan, as he introduces the audience to his favorite musical from 1928, aptly named "A Drowsy Chaperone."

Audiences who attend the show will experience the musical alongside our asocial Broadway musical fan. Setting the scene, with the house lights down, a man in a chair appears on stage and puts on his favorite record; the cast recording of a fictitious 1928 musical, "The Drowsy Chaperone." The recording comes to life and the musical begins as the man in the chair looks on. Characters such as two lovers on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man, a desperate theatre producer, a not-so-bright hostess, two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, a misguided Don Juan and an intoxicated chaperone, join our Broadway fan on stage

for a night of fanfare and musical excitement.

"The Drowsy Chaperone," a musical written by two friends, Bob Martin and Don McKellar in 1996. Its theatrical debut was made in 1998 at The Rivoli in Toronto and opened on Broadway on May 1, 2006. "The Drowsy Chaperone" has been nominated for several Broadway and London theatre awards, ultimately winning five Tony Awards and seven Drama Desk Awards.

This year returning director, Parker Eastman is kicking off the 2019 theatre season with this play. Since joining the Springfield Community Players in 2018, Eastman has been serving as Springfield Community Players Musical Director. Eastman has a number of years' experience under his belt, going into his eighth year as a director. His time in the theatre however, dates back to his time in high school, ranging from acting to writing to of course his musical talents.

When asked why he chose to produce and direct "The Drowsy Chaperone" as one his musical this year, Eastman said, "I've want-

ed to do 'The Drowsy Chaperone' since I was in eighth grade. The music and orchestrations are pure genius and it has a great/interesting concept. Not to mention a surprise during the musical number 'Toledo Surprise.'"

Joining Eastman is his fantastic cast of characters. Each person auditioned and was hand selected by Eastman for the roles they best fit into. Ranging from new to returning talent, the engagement of new and old actors at the Springfield Community Players has spiked over the past couple years, meaning that engagement in the organization is on the rise.

Join the Players at the Players' Studio, 165 South Street in Springfield to laugh your way through this knee-slapping musical comedy! Make reservations online at www.springfieldcommunityplayers.org/ tickets or by calling our ticket box office at 866-967-8167. Show dates are April 19, 20, and 27 with doors opening at 6:30 p.m., for the 7 p.m. show and April 27 and 28 with doors opening at 1:30 p.m. for the 2 p.m. show.