

STAGE RIGHT

presents Cole Porter's

ANYTHING GOES

in February

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong

Photos: Michael Pittman

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe will present the classic Cole Porter musical comedy *Anything Goes* Feb. 14 – Mar. 2, 2014. *Anything Goes* is set aboard the ocean liner S. S. American, where nightclub singer/evangelist Reno Sweeney is en route from New York to England. Her pal Billy Crocker has stowed away to be near his love, Hope Harcourt, but the problem is

Hope is engaged to the wealthy Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Joining this love triangle on board the luxury liner are Public Enemy #13, Moonface Martin and his sidekick-in-crime Erma. With the help of some outrageous disguises, tap-dancing sailors and good old-fashioned blackmail, Reno and Martin join forces to help Billy in his quest to win Hope's heart.

Anything Goes is a glittering example of classic musical theater, complete with

amazing tap numbers, campy jokes, unlikely happy endings and eminently hummable songs like "De-Lovely," "I Get a Kick Out Of You" and "Anything Goes," courtesy of the unforgettable score by Cole Porter. Director Randy Bianchi and Musical Director Penny Andros have assembled a stunning cast to bring this happy tapping tale to the Crighton stage.

Leading the cast as Reno Sweeney is the dazzling Meaghan Schulz. Meagan



was last seen on the Crighton stage as a dancer in *The Wizard of Oz* and in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. A graduate of the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, Meaghan teaches voice, musical theatre, tap, jazz and ballet at Kindermusik. This 'triple threat' performer will be sharing the stage with funny-man Michael Raabe as Moonface Martin. STAGE RIGHT audiences will remember Michael from many of our productions including our very first: he played Sheriff John Curtis Buntner in *Christmas Belles* and most recently was harried producer Max Feldzig in *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

The love interests, Billy and Hope, will be played by James Hunter McMahon and Christina J. Taylor. Hunter and Christina were also in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Audiences will remember Hunter for his tap dancing in *Drowsy* and Christina for her soaring soprano voice. Hope's fiancé, Lord Evelyn Oak-

Continued on page 70 ⇨



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leigh, is played by the hysterical Jonathan Rozas, another *Drowsy* cast member. Audiences will remember Jonathan as the irrepressible Latin lothario Adolpho in *Drowsy*. Other *Drowsy* alums include STAGE RIGHT founders Carolyn Corsano Wong and Steve Wong. Carolyn plays Hope's daffy mother Evangeline Harcourt and Steve plays Chinese convert John. Their son Michael Wong joins them on

stage this time as Chinese convict turned convert Luke. STAGE RIGHT president Phil Clarke returns to the stage as Billy's often inebriated boss Elisha Whitney. Phil was last seen on the stage in *The Miracle Worker*.

Returning to the Crighton stage after a long absence is Dan Tippen who plays the ship's Captain and Amy Barnes who plays Moonface Martin's sidekick Erma. New to

the Crighton stage are a few musical theatre students from Sam Houston State: Nathan Owen as the Purser, Devin Norwood as Rev. Henry T. Dobson. They are joined by sailors Juan Morles and Steffan Crenshaw. STAGE RIGHT set designer John Barton gets back on stage as an FBI agent. Reno's Angels are played



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by newcomers Mikki Woodard, Sara Marko, Laura Lange and STAGE RIGHT stalwart Sachi Tanaka. Along for the ride as passengers are Payton Crenshaw, tap dancer extraordinaire Isabella Munson (last seen tapping away in the Emerald City in *The Wizard of Oz*), newcomer Taylor Maresca, and STAGE RIGHT

founder Amy Sowens who played Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Anything Goes runs for three weekends February 14 – March 2, 2014 Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm and two Sunday matinees on Feb. 23 and Mar. 2 at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Crighton box office at 936-441-7469 or online at www.stage-right.org. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and

\$15 for youth 16 and under. Special group rates are available with groups of 15 persons or more. The rate for senior groups is only \$15. When you come to the show please bring a gift card for donation to the Montgomery County Women's Center. The historic Crighton Theatre is located at 234 N. Main Street in downtown Conroe. We hope you'll climb aboard the S.S. American where ANYTHING GOES! ♦



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