

Walden Happenings

Strike Up The River City Boys Band - Professor Harold Hill - "THE MUSIC MAN!" Is Coming To The Crighton Theatre

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By Doc Fennessy



Awards, including Best Musical, and running for 1,375 performances. The cast album won the first Grammy Award for "Best Original Cast Album". The show's success led to revivals and a popular 1962 film adaptation and a 2003 television remake.

Welcome to River City folks!!! The Stage Right Theatrical Troupe of Texas is closing out their highly entertaining 2010-2011 "A Season Of Southern Comfort" that had several "Sold-Out" 10 performance shows. Closing out the season will be the upbeat Broadway and Big Screen classic; the rousing and multiple awards winning musical classic "THE MUSIC MAN" directed by Manny Cafeo. "THE MUSIC MAN" is a musical with book, music, and lyrics by Meredith Willson, based on a story by Willson and Franklin Lacey. The show opens at the historic Crighton Theatre in Conroe on Friday evening, July 15th and runs every Friday and Saturday evenings until July 31st with 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinees on July 17th & 31st. Tickets are at reasonable family prices and now available by calling Kim Kelly daily in the theatre Box-office between 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. at: (936) 441-7469 - OR on line at: {www.crightontheatre.org}.

The plot of the show concerns a fast-dealing con man Harold Hill, who poses as a boys' band organizer and leader and sells band instruments and uniforms to naive townfolk before skipping town with the cash. In River City, Iowa, prim librarian and piano teacher Marian Paroo sees through him, but when Hill helps her younger brother overcome his fear of social interactions due to his lip, Marian begins to fall in love with Harold. Harold, in turn falling for Marian, risks being caught to win her. In 1957, the show became a hit on Broadway, winning five Tony

To reiterate to give some depth to the story, a fast-talking con man Harold Hill - "THE MUSIC MAN" {Played by Stage Right's Mike Anderson} goes from town to town selling citizens on starting a "boys band," then extracts money from them by ordering instruments and uniforms, with the promise that he'll teach the kids how to be musicians. Once he's collected his bankroll, Hill skips town, leaving the kids in the lurch. Looking for new suckers in Iowa, Hill arrives in River City, where he declares that the only way to save the youth of River City from the lure of the poolroom is to organize a boy's band.

Harold charms the mayor's wife Eulalie {Played by Carolyn Wong} into forming a "ladies' dance committee" and sets his sights on winning over local music teacher Marian Paroo {played by two outstanding performers with Jenny Hooftagle the first weekend and Giny Mendez the remainder of the run}.

Marian rightly considers Hill a fraud, especially when he espouses the "Think System" of learning music: if you think a tune, he claims, you can play it. But Marian becomes Hill's staunchest ally when her young brother Winthrop, withdrawn since the death of his father, exuberantly comes out of his shell at the prospect of joining Hill's band; and Marian's budding romance with the charming but unreliable Hill ultimately brings her out of her own shell as well. Melody

Montez will play Mrs. Paroo. Folks, there is so much talent in this Stage Right theatrical Troupe that another character will have two Winthrops - both were so good Director Manny Cafeo couldn't just choose one: Noah Smith and Ian Montez. Additionally, Director Manny Cafeo will have two (2) Zanettas with Sachi Tanaka and Gabrielle Scarliff, and Mackenzie Goode will be portraying Tommy Djelas. Another outstanding and impressive actor Harold Wood will be playing Mayor Shinn.

This show is a fantastic interlude from the hectic pace in everyday activities. The show has 27-standarily recognized and memorable tunes by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey. It is interesting to note in the Broadway reviews that tunes like: "Lida Rose" and "Will I Ever Tell You," sung first separately and then simultaneously, are examples of Broadway counterpoint [interwoven melodies] - songs with separate lyrics and separate melodies that harmonize and are designed to be sung together. Similarly, "Pick A Little" and "Good Night Ladies" are also sung first separately, and then in counterpoint. Willson's counterpoint, along with two counterpoint song pairs from Irving Berlin musicals, are lampooned in the 1959 musical Little Mary Sunshine, where three counterpoint songs are combined: "Playing Croquet," "Swinging" and "How Do You Do?" This is a very interesting and challenging for the Music Director of this wonderful faamily show.

Additionally, "Goodnight, My Someone" is the same tune, in waltz time, as the march tempo "Seventy-six Trombones". Both the music and lyrics for "Til There Was

You have been attributed to Frank Loesser, writing under the pseudonym Franklin Lacey, co-author of the story with Willson. In the 1962 movie, the 2000 revival, and some amateur and regional Productions, "Gary, Indiana" is sung in Act I by Harold Hill and Mrs. Paroo (between "Marian the Librarian" and "My White Knight"), with Winthrop singing a reprise of it in Act II.

Pictured to the Right: Look out River City! Professor Harold Hill {Mike Anderson} "THE MUSIC MAN" is coming to town to fleece the town's money for a Boys Band! * {Photo by Nikie Brown; WishNik Photography}.

Let me tell you folks that this show will be the "Toast of the Town" performed at an appropriate theatre of the time {78-year old Historic Theatre}, an award winning Broadway musical, highly rated family entertainment and this is going to be an eventually "Sold-out" production. When the word gets out - and it is; every music lover and family in town will be wanting tickets, - so get them NOW - and don't forget to take Grandma & Grandpa, they'll love y'all for it. The show opens at the historic Crighton Theatre in Conroe on Friday evening, July 15th and runs every Friday and Saturday evenings until July 31st with 2:00 p.m. Sunday Matinees on July 17th & 31st. Tickets are at reasonable family prices and now available by calling Kim Kelly daily in the theatre Box-office between 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. at: (936) 441-7469 - OR on line at: {www.crightontheatre.org}.

