

Floyd Central theatre to present “The Music Man”

Written by George Browning

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One of the most popular musicals to come out of the American theater scene during the 20th century, Meredith Willson’s “The Music Man” will march into the Floyd Central High School auditorium for six performances November 2-11.

The curtain will open for Friday and Saturday performances at 7:30 p.m., while the Sunday performances are 2 p.m. matinees. Tickets, which are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$6 for students, may be reserved by contacting the box office at 812-542-2284. A special “VIP” option may be added to your ticket for an additional \$6. This option includes an exclusive VIP lounge with hors d’oeuvres during intermission as well as priority seating.

“The Music Man” debuted in 1957 with a story line and music that are as vibrant and popular today as they were to audiences then. It is the story of con man Harold Hill, played by junior Clay Gulley, who travels to the small town of River City, Iowa, to earn his fortune. But “there’s trouble in River City” as Hill, who claims to be a professor of music, decides to convince the townspeople they need a boys’ band and then plans to run away once the boys have paid for instruments and uniforms.

Hill runs into an old friend, Marcellus Washburn, played by senior Cole Thornton, who tries to persuade Hill these “stubborn lowans” won’t be fooled by the “Professor.” This, of course, piques Hill’s interest and he takes up the challenge with gusto, explaining to the citizens of River City that they have, “Trouble with a capital T that rhymes with P and that stands for Pool.”

His scheme is moving along perfectly until he falls in love with the town piano teacher, Marian Paroo, played by sophomore Madeline Coffey. Even though she knows he’s a con man, she still loves him for the hope he has brought to the town.

River City’s Mayor Shinn, played by senior Mark Merk, is not convinced and he asks the local school board members (played by special guest artists Norman Seawright, John Seymer, Jerod Eaton, and Mark Lewis) to “get this man’s credentials.” But the smooth-talking Hill wins over the school board and many of the other locals.

“The Music Man is good, clean fun for the whole family,” said Director of Theatre Arts Robbie Steiner. “Our cast of more than 100 actors, singers and dancers captures the innocence of small town-America at the turn of the century and generates energy, entertainment, and lots of laughs.” The score features iconic orchestration under the baton of Jon Ledgerwood with spectacular choreography by Bette Weber Flock and Megan Bliss.

Also featured in the production are Kathryn Pryor as Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn, Mitchell Lewis as Tommy Djilas, Clayton Wiseman as Winthrop, Mary Schreier as Mrs. Paroo, Caroline Siegrist as Amaryllis, Jade Dailey as Zaneeta Shinn, and Shelby Brown as Gracie Shinn.

Rounding out the cast is a large ensemble of Floyd Central students as well as students from local middle and elementary schools. “Every year, we do a show that gives a lot of younger students in the area the opportunity to perform in a large-scale production,” said director Robbie Steiner. “It is exciting to see what happens when we bring young artists together with a variety of experiences and talents. The result is a vibrant cast with youthful energy and enthusiasm.”

The Floyd Central Theatre Arts production of The Music Man is produced through special arrangement with Music Theatre International, Inc and sponsored through generous support from Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County, Re/Max Advantage, Will’z Construction, Weber School of Dance, The UPS Store of Floyds Knobs, and Vincennes University Aviation Technology Center.

Floyd Central is located at 6575 Old Vincennes Road, Floyds Knobs.