



News Release

Business Office:
607 S. Water St.
Sheboygan, WI 53081
Contact: Michelle Bestul 920/459-3779

The Sheboygan Theatre Company announces the cast and crew for "Irving Berlin's White Christmas," the organization's holiday production of their 2011/12 Season which is sponsored by The Stefanie H. Weill Charitable Fund and Acuity for the Arts.

Adapted from the popular 1954 film of the same name, this musical version includes most of the movie's music, but also includes other songs from Irving Berlin's repertoire.

Starring in the Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye roles are Zachery J. Pledl and Connor David Giles, both last seen on stage in "Little Shop of Horrors." Pledl plays the ever serious Bob Wallace, while Giles, plays the fun-loving Phil Davis. Their counterparts, the Haynes sisters, are portrayed by Sarah Pittner and Hannah Benton. Pittner, playing Judy Haynes, makes her return to the STC stage after taking time to raise a family. Benton, playing Betty Haynes, spends much of her time being co-owner of Paradigm Coffee and Music.

The imposing General Waverly, is played by Donald Held ("Brigadoon"). The General owns the Vermont Inn, which is having trouble because of the warm winter they are having. His second in command and concierge, Martha Watson, is played by Michelle Bestul ("Crimes if the Heart"). The inn also houses the General's granddaughter, played by newcomer, Kelsi Engelhardt.

This show boasts several newcomers to the STC stage. First would be Michael Flipse, who will play several roles and voices. Michael Sears is a newcomer to theatre in general and will portray Ralph Sheldrake, an old army GI who is now a producer for the Ed Sullivan Show. Other newcomers who are in the ensemble and have other assorted roles, are Olivia LeClair (from Two Rivers), Amanda Drescher (Sheboygan), Mickenzie Petrie (Plymouth) and Tamra O'Keefe (Kohler).

Sarah Klauck, fresh from "Guys and Dolls" and "Little Shop of Horrors," is the Dance Captain for the show, as well as being one part of the sexy chorus girl duo, Rhoda and Rita. Her counterpart is played by Marielle Schuchardt ("Little Shop of Horrors"). In the singing and dancing ensemble they are joined by Jayme Hansen ("Christmas Carol"), Rachel Platz ("Brigadoon"), Kimberly Singer ("Christmas Carol"), Kyle Schwanke ("Little Shop of Horrors"), Hope White ("Brigadoon") and Cassie Ziegelbauer ("Guys and Dolls").

The rest of the cast makes up the singing ensemble and other various roles. That includes Bob Deyo ("Meet Me in St. Louis"), Clark Kirst ("Christmas Carol"), Susan Salm ("Fiddler on the Roof"), Bob Staats ("Meet Me in St. Louis") and James Lammers ("Crimes of the Heart") and a frequent backstage volunteer Brenna Montgomery.

“White Christmas” is directed and choreographed by Warren Scott Friedman from New York, NY. Sharon Quinn is the Assistant to the Director and supervising all aspects of the production is stage manager Karen Held. Assistant Stage Manager is Shari Roehl. Music direction was divided between two individuals, Michael Schulz and Danny Ognavic. The lighting design was created by, Lisa Stewart, while Bev Dulmes and Russell Franzen Jr. created the costumes. The show will feature sound design by Pat Smith. Make-up design is being done by Christy Zimmermann. Nan Gibson and Lisa Masbruch are handling the properties for the production, while Melissa O’Connell is the paint master. Eric Rautmann is the master electrician.

Sponsored by Community Bank and Trust, “White Christmas” will open Friday, December 2, and be performed at 7:30 p.m. Subsequent performances also at 7:30 p.m. will be on December 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10. There will be one matinee performance on Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m. The production will be presented at the Leslie W. Johnson Theatre, 2820 Union Avenue, Sheboygan.

Tickets are available for purchase online or at the Theatre Company office in the Community Recreation Department, 607 S. Water Street, or at the theatre box office 45 minutes before curtain of each performance. For further information or to reserve tickets call 920/459-3779 or visit their website www.sheboygantheatercompany.com.