



News Release

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The Sheboygan Theatre Company announces that open auditions for the holiday production of, Irving Berlin's, "White Christmas," the second production of the 2011-2012 season, will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, October 12 and 13 at 6:30 p.m. Those auditioning should expect to come both days. Wednesday will be a quick audition, while Thursday will have more activity, including dancing.

The classic 1954 movie has been adapted to a stage version in this family friendly holiday story. A majority of the original songs and story have been retained, like "Sisters," "Count Your Blessings," "Blue Skies," and of course "White Christmas."

The four main characters are the two successful war buddies, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, and the two up and coming sisters, Betty and Judy Haynes.

Wallace and Davis are both in their 20's or 30's and will have some dancing to do throughout the show. Wallace, the Bing Crosby character, needs a great voice with a crooning style. Davis is Wallace's laid back friend with comic tendencies.

The two sisters are in their 20's. Betty is the older, sensible sister. She will need to move well but she will need a larger range vocally. Judy Haynes is the flirty, younger sister who has major dance numbers.

Those auditioning for the four leads should prepare an up-tempo Broadway song and a Broadway ballad to perform. Those individuals who feel comfortable enough should prepare a one-minute monologue. It is not a requirement for auditions but it is encouraged for those looking for a featured or supporting role. The director would like to see actors who want to go the extra mile.

There are several supporting roles. Those looking for a supporting role can do a monologue if they would like but they must prepare a short up-tempo Broadway song.

For men, the first role is General Waverly who is mostly non-singing and in his late 50's or 60's. Next is the role of Ralph Sheldrake who is in his 30's, an old army buddy of the Wallace and Davis, and a current producer for The Ed Sullivan Show. The other two roles are Ezekiel Foster, an older humorous gentleman who helps out at the inn and Mike, Wallace and Davis' over-dramatic Stage Manager.

The first of the female supporting roles is Martha Watson, age 40 to 60 something. Martha is the busy-body at the inn. She is the comedic foil to the General. The one role for a child is Susan Waverly, the General's outgoing and loveable granddaughter who is said to be 9 to 12 years old. Finally there are the roles of Rita and Rhoda, who are two inseparable flirty chorus girls.

Those interested in being the ensemble need only to prepare a short up-tempo Broadway song. The ensemble will need to be large and while auditions will not be limited by age, except for the role of Susan, the ensemble does not really call for children under the high school age.

For the second day of auditions, October 13, everyone will learn a short dance combination, so make sure to wear comfortable clothes and dance shoes if you own some. Then everyone will learn a small part of a song. Finally, those considered for speaking roles will stay to read selected sides from the script.

Auditions will take place on at the Leslie W. Johnson Theatre at Horace Mann Middle School, 2820 Union Avenue, Sheboygan. Though the selection process does imply some competition, it is made as pleasant as possible. Direction is given along the way and people need not fear that they will in any way be embarrassed. This will be a large production and will need a lot of backstage volunteers also. If people are interested in volunteering there will be a get together with the cast and director after the first rehearsal at Horace Mann on Friday, October 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Scripts are available for a forty-eight hour loan at the Theatre Company's office in the Community Recreation Department at 607 S. Water Street. A deposit of \$15 for scripts is required. They may be picked up Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11.

"White Christmas" will run from December 2 to 10, 2011, with rehearsals beginning Friday, October 14. Over a seven-week period there will be approximately 34 rehearsals, the majority of which will be Monday through Friday, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

The production is sponsored by Community Bank and Trust.

For further information contact Michelle Bestul at 459-3779 or check out the audition page on www.sheboygantheatercompany.com.