

News

Theater Department musical production of "She Loves Me" opening this weekend

by Nina Willis
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Are you bored out of your mind from Thursday to Saturday at 7:30pm, or Sunday at 3:00pm? Well if you are, you should check out the play *She Loves Me*, opening this coming Thursday, February 21 at 7:30pm. Why not drop by the Morrison Playhouse in the Porter Center for the Performing Arts for some musical entertainment.

She Loves Me was originally written by Hungarian playwright Miklos Laszlo and originally named *Parfumerie*. The version of *She Loves Me* that is being performed at the Porter Center for the Performing Arts this weekend was written by Joe Masteroff, the music is composed by Jerry Bock, and the lyrics are written by Sheldon Harnick.

Tuesday night was the dress rehearsal for the musical *She Loves Me*. This play is so loved that it has been remade into a musical and a very popular movie.

If you've heard of the movie *You've Got Mail*, starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, this movie is a direct adaptation of *She Loves Me*, with a few modern twists.

The atmosphere on the stage of *She Loves Me* was very lighthearted but behind the scenes, it was a hectic bustle that occasionally bubbled over onto the stage. The story of *She Loves Me* is classic romantic comedy sure to make any lonesome Joe or Jane feel hopeful again. The perfect word to describe *She Loves Me* is buoyant.

Several of the Hungarian characteristics, adapted for



Photo by M. Newton

Cast members go through a dress rehearsal for "She loves me."

Laszlo's original play, appear throughout the musical from scenery and music to the mentioned literature and dance. Costumes were perfect for this period piece and the music is an absolute delight, with a common playful airiness for each character and scene.

Synopsis:

George and Amalia are two feuding clerks in a European perfumery during the 1930s who secretly find comfort in their anonymous romantic pen pals, little knowing their respective correspondents are none other than each other.

Other employees at the perfumeries include Ilona Ritter, whose unfortunate romantic liaisons include one with fellow worker and cocky ladies' man Steven Kodaly (whose conquests include the boss' wife); Georg's friend Ladislav Sipos; and young messenger Arpad Laszlo, who dreams of being promoted to clerk.

Overseeing them is shop owner Mr. Maraczek, whose faith in Georg is shattered when he is led to believe it is Georg that is romancing his wife, rather than Kodaly who is actually involved with his wife, a misconception that nearly leads to tragedy.

Tuesday night was dress rehearsal for cast 1. Jenny Baxter and Dwight Chiles make the perfect Amalia and Georg. The chemistry isn't forced at all. One can only imagine what cast 2 has in store for the audience.

Witty undertones, enchanting songs, and mesmerizing talent are sewn throughout *She Loves Me*. *She Loves Me* makes for a wonderful date night or even a carefree friends' night out.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and students with ID.

Our own actors have taken it upon themselves to perform the best they can. This time there are two casts for different nights. Jenny Baxter as Amalia for cast 1, Laura Roop as Amalia for cast 2, Kelly Bone as Ilona Ritter for cast 1, Christine Caldemeyer as Ilona Ritter for cast 2, Lisa Runion as Arpad for cast 1 and Kati Adams as Arpad for cast 2.

Dwight Chiles as Georg, Will Hartzog as Steven, Brian Burgess as Ladislav, and Phil Henry as Mr. Maraczek.

If this sounds like your cup of tea come on out to see a cute and timeless work of genius made for the whole family to enjoy.

Feeling Saucy?

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