



Friday, March 14, 2003

## OU presents musical comedy 'Anything Goes'

Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** presents "Anything Goes," a musical comedy with songs by Cole Porter. The show opens Thursday, March 20, and runs through Sunday, March 30, at Varner Studio Theatre.

"Anything Goes" was originally supposed to tell the story of a cast of zany characters aboard an ocean liner who are facing the possibility of a shipwreck. But when many lives were lost in a shipwreck off the coast of New Jersey shortly before rehearsals were to begin, the show's creative team decided that their musical would have to be rewritten. The title "Anything Goes" didn't appear until this second draft. It refers to the desperation with which the show was put together. The final product, an uproarious comic classic, boasted the fourth longest Broadway run of the 1930s.

The action revolves around renowned nightclub singer/evangelist Reno Sweeney, debutante Hope Harcourt and her quirky fiancé Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, Wall Street novice Billy Crocker, Public Enemy #13, and many others sailing to England on the SS American. The play's sure-fire jokes, wacky disguises and absurd situations will take you merrily along on a sea of Cole Porter songs. The score features such great Porter standouts as "I Get a Kick Out of You," "All Through the Night," "Easy to Love," "Friendship" and "It's De-Lovely."

The Oakland University cast (in alphabetical order) includes Joseph Baldiga (Clarkston), Jason Beaubien (Oak Park), Heidi Brown (Clarkston), Harry Carlson (Birmingham), My-Ishia Cason-Brown (South Redford), Christina Gurne (Rochester Hills), Phillip Harmer (Mt. Pleasant), Brittany Henson (Brighton), Sarah Hilarides (Union City), Lindsay Hills (Troy), Jessie Holmon (Clarkston), Catherine Lutz (Howell), Mark McCleese (Clarkston), Brian Meldrum (Macomb Township), Christopher Mick (Rochester), Megan Mullinger (Grosse Pointe), Steve O'Brien (White Lake), Peter Sharbaugh (Bloomfield Hills), Danie Smith and Brian Spurling (Roseville), Andrea Taormina (Fraser), Amy Thompson (Howell), Meghan Trudell (Livonia), Joel Trumble (Lake Orion), Renee Turner (Rochester) and Monique Wylie (Oxford).

Michael Gillespie is director. Musical direction is by James Wells. Choreography is by Susan Baldiga.

Performances dates and times are as follows: March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at 8 p.m.; March 23 and 30 at 2 p.m.; and March 25 and 26 at 10 a.m. The March 29 performance will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing. Tickets are \$12 for the general public and \$6 for students, except for the 10 a.m. matinees, which are \$5 for all seats.

Tickets are available at the Varner Box Office by calling (248) 370-3013, or on the **Ticketmaster** Web site or by calling (248) 645-6666, or at the door one hour before each performance.

### SUMMARY

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