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GUERIN PREP THEATRE PRESENTS SPRING MUSICAL: “HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING”

“Great music; great parts. It’s fun.”

Theatre Director Kristen Mackie offered these three reasons for choosing “How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying” as this year’s Spring Musical for Guerin College Preparatory High School.

To be presented Friday, April 8 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 9 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., the play is a satire on “big business,” or as one reviewer has offered, “Power, sex, ambition, greed.....it’s just another day at the office.”

Based on the book, “How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying” by Shepherd Meade, the musical was written by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert, the authors of “Guys and Dolls.” Music and lyrics are by Frank Loesser.

The cast includes Senior Anthony Norman in the role of J. Pierpont Finch, a young window washer with large ambitions, who, armed with a little handbook called “How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” climbs the corporate ladder to become a high-powered executive.

Along the way, he takes on the other members of the company (and the cast) from J.B. Biggley, the feared president of the company, played by Senior Anthony Huspen of Norridge; and Rosemary Pilkington, the secretary and love interest, played by Junior Jenna Zacharias of Elmwood Park, to Bud Frump, Mr. Biggleys’ whiny nepostistic nephew, who is played by Senior Ryan Donnelly of River Grove.

Hedy La Rue, an ex-night-club cigarette girl and would-be secretary under the boss’s protection, spices up the action and adds to the intrigue of Finch’s rise to power. She is played by Sophomore Jessie Roman of Chicago.

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Finch receives special assistance from three secretaries—Miss Jones, J.B. Biggley's secretary, played by Sophomore Shannon Manzella of Chicago; Miss Smith or Smitty, Rosemary's best friend, played by Senior Vicky Giannini of Chicago; and Miss Krumholtz, who eventually becomes Finch's own secretary, played by Senior Judy Wrobel, also of Chicago.

The other secretaries in the office are Junior Vanessa Negron of Chicago; Sophomores Asalah Boulos of Elmwood Park and Suzanna Deneen and Kelsey Fortier, of Chicago; and Freshmen Madeline Blackburn of Itasca and Marissa Napolitano and Lois Tuman of Chicago. Blackburn and Napolitano also serve as scrubwomen; Fortier, Negron and Tuman are also Pirate Dancers. Wrobel serves as dance captain.

Filling out the cast are the executives in the office, each an example for Finch to follow (or not) and are played by Seniors Branden Castro of Schiller Park, Sophomores Freddy Berrens of River Grove; Angel Centeno of Elmwood Park; and Brandon Blicharz, Erik Mizhquiri, Shane Quinlan and Kyle Schwaba of Chicago; and Freshman Biago Greco of Chicago.

Two Guerin Prep faculty members also have roles in the musical. Mr. Marcus Greene, science teacher and coach, provides the book "voice" and Mr. Andy Damato, assistant athletic director and assistant dean as well as P.E. teacher and coach, plays Benjamin Burton Daniel Ovington.

The crew for "How to Succeed In Business" is headed by Sophomore Rita Zapata of Chicago as stage manager, assisted by Sophomores Gina Lindeman of Elmwood Park and Oksana Petty of Chicago.

Other members of the crew are Seniors Kaitlyn Adrian, Emma Brkic, Andy Hayes and Vincent Kaehler, all of Chicago and Lindsay Pitts of Elmwood Park; Sophomores Danielle DiBari of Elmwood Park and Amanda Miranda of River Grove; and Freshmen Lindsey Amati and Sarah Novosel of Chicago, and Tano Bianco of Franklin Park.

Parents of Guerin Prep alumni are also playing vital roles. Bill Parsons, whose son and daughter both graduated from Guerin Prep, is the sound coordinator while Sarafina Norman, mother of a current student and two Guerin Prep alumni, is costume coordinator.

Jeni Donahue is the choreographer and Noah Record is the lighting designer. Mackie, who directs the play, is also the technical director.

Guerin Prep choir and piano teacher, Jordan Chua, is the vocal and orchestral director.

Guerin Prep students in the orchestra include Seniors Matthew Klich of Chicago and Rebecca Hufnus of Norridge; Juniors Rob Kostencki, Natalia Koziol, John Mariane and Abigail Sawal of Chicago, Hernando Colque of Northlake and Audrey Sanders of Glenview. Guerin Prep graduate Rodolfo Gomez '10 is part of the percussion section.

"How to Succeed" opened in October 1961 to almost unanimous raves from the critics. It ran a total of 1,417 performances, winning multiple Tony Awards (including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Director of a Musical, Best Actor in a Musical, Best Supporting Actor in a Musical, and Best Musical Director), a New York Drama Critics Circle Award and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, only the fourth awarded to a musical.

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Tickets are \$8. Guerin Prep is located at 8001 W. Belmont Avenue in River Grove. For more information, call 708-453-6233, ext. 4762.

A special performance of the musical will be held for area elementary school students on Thursday, April 7, at 10 a.m. **###**