Take a Bow - 04/2016

Department of Theatre

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Schedule at a Glance

THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE
making you feel 😃
April 8th-17th

PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE
making you feel 😊
April 15th

Alumni News
Brooke Elliot

Thoroughly Modern Millie
Guest Director & Choreographer Ann Nieman
WMU Theatre alum, Brooke Elliott, boards a new CBS Family Comedy!

You may know Brooke from her comedy-drama *Drop Dead Diva*. She was recently tapped to co-star in an adaptation of the new family comedy *Upper Middle Bogen!* Brooke has also appeared in many musicals, including a US tour of *Wicked* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Read more about it here.

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An award-winning director/choreographer, Ann has created 200 productions for respected regional theatres across the U.S. and Europe, most notably *42nd Street*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Grease*, *Evita*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *West Side Story*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Me & My Girl*. A native of Texas, Ann received her B.A. in Theatre from North Texas State University.

We talked to her about her work on *Thoroughly Modern Millie*:

**As a guest director, how have you enjoyed your experience working with WMU students?**

"The students that I've had the pleasure of working with have all been wonderfully focused and enthusiastic, not to mention extremely talented. That includes not only the students, but also the stage management and technical staff. Attention to detail during rehearsals and design and production meetings is admirable and very professional. Getting to know the students on a personal basis has been simply enchanting. Everyone I've met and talked with has been utterly delightful and funny!"

**What do you want audiences to experience when they come to see *Thoroughly Modern Millie*?**

"Millie is a true old-fashioned musical; it has a great story that is full of romance, comedy, a little bit of intrigue, and some lovely moments of wistful sadness. I hope that the audience will, from the moment they hear the first notes of the overture to the moment the final curtain falls, be able to immerse themselves in the story and simply forget their troubles or annoyances for a couple of hours, and leave with a smile on their face. It sounds a little corny by today's standards, but I think that is the true mission of an old-fashioned musical, and I aim to see to it that the show delivers!"

**We are so excited for this show to open on April 8th - make sure to join us for this toe-tapping show!**

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Activate Midwest Playwright Announcement

The WMU Theatre and English Departments are pleased to announce the four plays and playwrights selected for the 2nd annual Activate: Midwest New Play Festival! These playwrights will have their shows workshopped and featured on stage June 16th-18th, 2016.

Read more here.

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**Buy Thoroughly Modern Millie Tickets**
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You Are Invited
Celebrate The Roaring 20’s

Celebrate the roaring 20's with The University Theatre Guild & special guest host MAYOR BOBBY HOPEWELL on April 15th.

This annual event benefits The University Theatre Guild scholarship fund. It will be the bee's knees - speakeasy style!

Join us for a full evening of entertainment, starting with hors d'oeuvres & dinner by Oakwood Bistro, Full City Cafe & Millennium Restaurant Group. Dinner is followed by a performance of the toe-tapping musical favorite, Thoroughly Modern Millie. Guests wrap up the night at a dessert afterparty with Mayor Hopewell & the cast of the show!

RSVP For The President's Performance
The University Theatre Box Office is open Monday through Friday 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Walk in or call 269-387-6222.

Kalamazoo Strong Benefit
New York City Shows Love For Kalamazoo

On March 7th, WMU Alums & Kalamazoo natives joined together to present Kalamazoo Strong in NYC. The benefit event to counter the senseless acts of violence that occurred in Kalamazoo last month was held in the Laurie Beechman Theatre in Manhattan. It featured performances by Marin Mazzie, Scott Burkell, Janis Siegel and the Manhattan Transfer, Tom Wopat, and many more.

Producers and creators of the event are recent WMU Theatre alums Mallory King, Tyler Siems, and Kalamazoo native and musician, Nat Zegree.

The event was a great success raising money to support the families affected by the shootings. Thank you to all who performed, attended, and donated to this wonderful event!