

Open Auditions for

## THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

Music and Lyrics by Lisa Lambert & Greg Morrison  
Book by Bob Martin & Don McKellar

Directed by COM Artistic Director, H. Russ Brown

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

**Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

### **ABOUT THE PLAY: Performances are July 14-31, 2016**

Winner of 5 Tony Awards (*including Best Book and Best Original Score*), THE DROWSY CHAPERONE is a hilarious and loving send-up of the Jazz age musical featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another.

With the houselights down, a man in a chair appears on stage and puts on his favorite record: the cast recording of a fictitious 1928 musical. The recording comes to life and The Drowsy Chaperone begins as the man in the chair looks on. Mix in two lovers on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man, a desperate theatre producer, a not so bright hostess, two gangsters posing as pastry chefs, a misguided Don Juan and an intoxicated chaperone, and you have the ingredients for an evening of madcap delight.

Hailed by New York Magazine as, "The Perfect Broadway Musical" The Drowsy Chaperone is a masterful meta-musical, poking fun at all the tropes that characterize the musical theatre genre.

**ABOUT THE AUDITIONS:** A prepared verse/chorus from a golden age style musical is greatly encouraged, but not required. Bring sheet music – an accompanist will be provided. Songs will be followed with a simple dance audition and cold readings from the script. **All listed ages of roles are approximate, not hard cutoffs.**

**MAN IN CHAIR** - *Male / Age: 30 to 50 – Able to carry a simple tune.*

Musical theatre aficionado who mourns the end of the Golden Era. He narrates the show as he listens to the record on vinyl.

**MRS. TOTTENDALE** – *Female / Age: 50 to 70 – ALTO Character Voice*

A wealthy widow and host of the wedding. She is flighty, eccentric, often times forgetful, and funny. She is absolutely charming, bubbly and oblivious to the confusion her behavior generates in other people.

**UNDERLING** – *Male / 35 to 70 – TENOR Character Voice*

Mrs. Tottendale's unflappable butler and manservant. He is stoic, dry-humored and sarcastic. A cross between Arthur Treacher and Niles the butler from The Nanny.

**ROBERT MARTIN** – *Male / Age: 18 to 35 - TENOR*

The groom-to-be who is deeply in love with Janet. He is the token 1920s leading man – debonair, dashing, and a matinee idol. He is cheesy, cheerful, and optimistic. Ability to tap dance.

**GEORGE** – *Male / Age: 18 to 50 - TENOR*

Robert's anxious and dim-witted best man. He is loyal, sincere, and nervous. Makes looking out for Robert's interests his top priority so that the wedding will come off without a hitch. Ability to tap dance.

**MR. FELDZIEG** – *Male / Age: 25 to 50 - BARITONE*

Frantic Broadway producer who will do anything to stop the wedding in order to keep Janet in the Follies. He is nervous, sarcastic, impatient, overbearing, and insensitive.

**KITTY** – *Female / Age: 18 – 35 – ALTO / SOPRANO Comedic Belt*

1920s dumb blonde chorine. She is Mr. Feldzieg's companion and will do anything to be a leading lady. A cross between Norma Cassady from Victor Victoria and Lena Lamont from Singin' in the Rain.

**GANGSTER 1 & 2** – *Male or Female / Age: 30 to 45 - TENOR*

Two jovial gangsters who are posing as pastry chefs. Typical 1920s Broadway gangsters full of word play and stylized movements.

**ALDOLPHO** – *Male / Age: 30 to 45 – BASS/BARITONE w/ a Great Falsetto*

Latin lothario. A womanizing cad who is very impressed with himself. He is confident, vigorous, and a buffoon. Vaudeville-style acting and fake Spanish/Italian accent required.

**JANET VAN DE GRAAF** – *Female / Age: 18 to 35 – ALTO with Big Belt*

The famous bride. Glamorous and talented star of Feldzieg's Follies; played by rising star Jane Roberts. Strong movement and special skills desired (acrobatics, juggling, etc.).

**THE DROWSY CHAPERONE** – *Female / Age: 45 to 60 – ALTO with Strong Belt*

Janet's tipsy confidante and friend; Care-free, often because she is "three sheets to the wind". An experienced "woman of the world" who couldn't care less what the world thinks. A melodramatic diva to be reckoned with who gleefully chews the scenery and steals just about every scene she is in. Great comedic role. Think Liza Minnelli meets Tallulah Bankhead.

**TRIX** – *Black Female / Age: 25 to 45*

The brave and brash female aviator. She is sassy, sleek and a take charge kind of gal. Preferably an African American actress as originally cast. May double in the ensemble.

**ENSEMBLE** – *2 Male / 2 Females – Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass*

A strong, dancing/singing ensemble to play Serving Staff, Reporters, etc. consisting of 2 men and 2 women.

**REHEARSALS:** Rehearsals begin on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and continue each week Monday – Thursday, generally running 7:00-10:00 pm. NO Friday rehearsals with the ONE Exception of Friday, July 8<sup>th</sup> which is part of Tech Week. You may or may not be scheduled for every rehearsal or for the full evening even when called. There will be no rehearsal on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> due to COM's closure for Independence Day.

**PERFORMANCES:** July 14<sup>th</sup> thru July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 8:00 pm & Sundays at 2:30 pm.

For more information, contact H. Russ Brown, Head of Theatre/Artistic Director, at [hussbrown@com.edu](mailto:hussbrown@com.edu)