

News Release

May 14, 2010

Ghostlight productions presents the musical Chicago

This August Moncton will be humming the unforgettable tunes of the award-winning show, *Chicago*, as Ghostlight Theatre returns with another popular musical. Following the success of 2009's *RENT*, Ghostlight will stage *Chicago* at Theatre L'Escaouette from August 4th-7th at 7:30 and August 8th at 3:00 PM.

Ghostlight is a local theatre collective formed by HTHS drama teacher Bill MacGillivray in 2009 with the ultimate goal of becoming Moncton's first professional theatre company. Ghostlight's cast and crew are primarily graduates of Moncton area high schools, most with years of experience performing in high school and district musicals. Ghostlight provides this talented group of singers, dancers, actors and crew with the opportunity to continue to produce and perform in live theatre after they have left high school.

Chicago will be Ghostlight's third production, following the phenomenal success of its première show last summer, the musical *RENT* and the fall production of Neil LaBute's *The Shape of Things* at Theatre L'Escaouette. *Chicago* will be choreographed by 2010 HTHS graduate Lauren Johnson, who has also choreographed *Cats*, *RENT* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, all to rave reviews. Casting is not yet finalized, but MacGillivray is confident that young adult talent in Moncton is as strong as in any major city, and if the initial audition meeting is any indication, attracting over 50 potential participants to date, the audition process will be a gruelling one for MacGillivray and his production staff. Ultimately, *Chicago* will feature gifted performers from all over the greater Moncton area, carefully chosen to showcase this extremely energetic and entertaining show.

Chicago is one of Broadway's most popular and longest-running musicals. A multiple Tony-ward winner, the show features memorable characters, popular songs such as "All That Jazz" and "Mr. Cellophane", and some of the best dance numbers ever to hit the stage. The show is set in 1920's Chicago, a hotbed of jazz and immorality. Imprisoned for the murder of her lover, chorus girl Roxie Hart meets fellow murderess Velma Kelly. Competing for the attention of star attorney Billy Flynn, each schemes to get away with murder while turning notoriety into post-prison stardom. With a little help from the warden, "Mama", the girls get their wish...but perhaps not the way they imagined it.

Artistic Director MacGillivray is enthusiastic about staging the show in an air-conditioned professional theatre, and advises audiences to get their tickets as soon as possible. Theatre L'Escouette seats only 200 people per show, and MacGillivray anticipates sell-out crowds. Last summer's production of RENT was a huge success in spite of the 40 degree temperature in the HTHS auditorium, so with a more comfortable yet much smaller venue, it seems obvious that demand will be high for tickets. Tickets go on sale Thursday, May 20th, and are available at Frank's Music, The Capitol Theatre Box Office, Theatre L'Escouette and Monument Lefebvre, at \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and students.

Information or interviews

Bill MacGillivray, Artistic Director 875-4086

theatreghostlight@gmail.com

Nancy Pipes, Producer 386-1715(h) 381-1649(c) 856-3510 (w)

pipes@nbnet.nb.ca