

Stratford's Black Box Theatre presents Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy*

The Stratford High School Playhouse presents *Black Comedy*, the first of two Black Box Theatre productions for 2009-2010. Last year, the Playhouse created the Black Box Season to give more students an opportunity to perform and gain stage experience. Directed and executed entirely by Stratford thespians, these productions provide valuable training and run concurrent to the Playhouse's main stage productions.

Black Comedy focuses on Brindsley Miller, an opportunistic young sculptor who is facing one of the most important evenings of his life, the night in which he is to meet both the tyrannical father of his debutante fiancée and a millionaire patron of the arts capable of making his career. Lovesick and desperate, Miller has embellished his apartment with furniture and objects d'arte "borrowed" from the absent antique collector next door. Just before his guests arrive, a fuse blows, plunging his apartment into darkness. Unexpected guests, aging spinsters, errant phone cords and other snares impede his frantic attempts to return the purloined items before light is restored, resulting in a very black comedy.

Student Director, Mary Catherine Edwards says, "When light and darkness are reversed, it leads to one comical catastrophe after the next. This small cast has enjoyed working together and holding "lights out" rehearsals while being blindfolded."

Held in Stratford's Black Box Theatre, *Black Comedy* will have a limited run – only three shows on October 15-17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please note this play is not part of the season ticket package.

Contact Information

Student Director: Mary Catherine Edwards 832.683.7353

Playhouse Advisor: David Clayton 281.989.0719

Stratford Playhouse Publicity: Kim Ehlinger 281.679.1363/713.201.0862

PARTY 80s STYLE: STRATFORD PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS *THE WEDDING SINGER*

Houston, TX, September 29, 2009

On the heels of their extravagant production of *Barnum*, which garnered six Tommy Tune Awards (including Best Musical), the Stratford High School Playhouse kicks off a new season with a musical version of the Adam Sandler movie, *The Wedding Singer*. In *The Wedding Singer*, it's 1985 and Robbie Hart is New Jersey's number one wedding singer and the life of every party until his own fiancé strands him at the altar. Shot through the heart, Robbie begins to make every wedding as disastrous as his own until a warm-hearted waitress named Julia intervenes. Unfortunately, Julia is engaged to be married! Unless Robbie can pull off the performance of a decade, the girl of his dreams will be gone forever.

Through hilarious period references, exaggerated costumes, and dynamic dances, *The Wedding Singer* captures the entire pop-culture experience of the 80s. Booster Club parents Pam Lundell and Jan Goss, known for period costumes, have again outdone themselves...imagine shoulder pads, puffy bridesmaid dresses, and pastel tuxedos with ruffled shirts. Choreographer Monroe Moore muses, "For me, it has been a great experience creating the dances and segues for this fast paced production. It took me back to the days of being a child, watching dance videos and emulating the dancers."

The Wedding Singer is co-directed by CeCe Prudhomme and Christian Holmes. Prudhomme says, "I was so excited when I found out the rights for the show were available. Unlike Monroe's return to childhood, this show took me back to high school at Stratford. It has been fun to introduce the kids to this "Thriller" of a show and decade. Between costuming with Pam and Jan, and blocking with Monroe (who was my student at SHS in the 90's) I really feel as if I am back in high school."

Tickets are \$15. Performances will be at 7:30 pm on Oct. 29-31 and Nov. 5-7 with a matinee on Nov. 7 at 2:30 pm. With new online ticketing at shsPlayhouse.com, Season Tickets are available until Oct. 14. Beginning October 19, the Box Office will open with new hours (10:30 am – 2 pm). From Oct. 19 – Nov. 7, tickets for *The Wedding Singer* may be purchase either online or at the Box Office. Stratford High School is located at 14555 Fern, Houston, Texas 77079. Contact us at 713-251-3449 or boxoffice@shsPlayhouse.com.

Contact information:

713-516-2486 CeCe Prudhomme (Director) & 713-398-3973 Christian Holmes (Co-Director)
281-772-2415 Monroe Moore (Choreographer)
281-679-1363 Kim Ehlinger (Playhouse Publicity)