THEATRE SHERIDAN PRESENTS

THE MOST HAPPY FELLA

April 12–23, 2011

Based on Sidney Howard’s “They Knew What They Wanted” Book, Music and Lyrics by FRANK LOESSER

Bintner
Darcy Evans
Musical Director
Jeffrey Huard
Choreographer
Stephen Roberts
Set and Costume Designer
Patrick Du Wors

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

OVERTURE

OOH! MY FEET! ...................................................... Cleo
SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE ........................................ Rosabella
THE MOST HAPPY FELLA ........................................ Tony and Townpeople
STANDING ON THE CORNER ....................................... Herman, Jake, Clem and Al
JOEY, JOEY, JOEY .................................................... Joe
ROSEABELLA ....................................................... Tony
ABBONDANZA ....................................................... Giuseppe, Ciccio, Pasquale
SPOSAZIO ............................................................. Tony and Townpeople
BENVENUTA ............................................................. Giuseppe, Ciccio, Pasquale
DON’T CRY ............................................................. Joe and Rosabella

Act Two

PRELUDE

FRESNO BEAUTIES .................................................. Vineyard Workers and Rosabella
HAPPY TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE ....................... Rosabella, Tony and Cleo
BIG D ................................................................. Cleo, Herman and Ensemble
HOW BEAUTIFUL THE DAYS .................................... Tony, Rosabella, Marie and Joe
YOUNG PEOPLE ..................................................... Marie and Tony
WARM ALL OVER ................................................... Rosabella
I LIKE EV’RYBODY .................................................. Cleo
MY HEART IS SO FULL OF YOU .................................. Tony and Rosabella
MAMMA, MAMMA .................................................. Tony
ABBONDANZA REPRISE .......................................... Giuseppe, Ciccio, Pasquale
PLEASE LET ME TELL YOU ........................................ Rosabella

FINALE

MY HEART IS SO FULL OF YOU REPRISE ......................... Tony and Rosabella

TECHNICAL CREW

Stage Manager ....................................................... Marc Benson
Assistant Stage Managers ....................................... Katie McPhee & Leigh Rawlins
Audio Crew .......................................................... Brian Kenny, Eric Wellman
Carpentry Crew .................................................... Ian Barber, Nicholas Chodack, Joshua Chudziak, Matthew Cochrane, Cedric Daros, Jonathan Grosz, Nicholas Matthews, Erika Rombough, Eric Ruberto
Head Electrician ...................................................... Matthew Field
Lighting Crew ....................................................... Russell Benoit, David Corbacio, Andrew Deardon, Luke Dobson, Lawrence Gluev, Michelle Inksetter, Carrie McMunn, Luka Trifunovic
Properties Crew ...................................................... Bremia Baker, Leona Czapinski, Monika Dembrowy, Caroline Hunt, Jasmyne Leiseme, Adrianna Marshi, Matthew Pannell, Chelsea Reinders, Ellen Roach
Scenic Paint Crew .................................................... Cristin Barr, Alice Ferreyra, Alana Freistadt, Andrea Harrington, Jason Goe, Nancy Kapodistrias, Sashin Naidu, Jenna Pumell, Katrina Sonp, Stephanie Tucker
Wardrobe Crew ...................................................... Alice Barnett, Esther Brown, Hannah Gordon, Shakra Kissoon, Matthew Leckie, Kate Miller, Jessica Richard, Bernadette Gall Sperandeo
Production Assistants ............................................. Andrew McGowan, Jayda Woods
Technical Assistants ................................................ Michael Coulter, John Page

RUNNING CREW

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Live Mix ............................................................. Brian Kenny
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Stage Hands .......................................................... Jonathan Grosz, Sashin Naidu
Deck Audio .......................................................... Matthew Cochrane, Caroline Hunt
Follow Spots .......................................................... Luke Dobson, Luka Trifunovic
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Frank Loesser’s Musical

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DIRECTOR’S NOTES

Frank Loesser was basking in the success of Guys and Dolls when he came upon Sidney Howard's 1924 Pulitzer Prize winning play They Knew What They Wanted. This play would become the basis for The Most Happy Fella. Loesser worked on the show for five years and the result was a musical of operatic proportions. Almost three-quarters of the play is set to music. When it opened on Broadway on May 3, 1956 at the Imperial Theatre it ran just under three hours. The original Playbill did not list individual songs, because it was too difficult to separate one musical number from another. Don Walker, the play’s orchestrator pointed out, “We pass into dialogue only for those developments that are not emotional in content, such as exposition.”

Loesser wrote arias, recitatives, duets, trios, choral numbers, and purely orchestral sections, to create what he called “a musical – with lots of music.”

When the original Broadway production opened there were twenty speaking roles, a twenty-six musician orchestra, and a thirty-six piece orchestra. In fact, the orchestra pit at the Imperial Theatre had to be enlarged to accommodate the extra musicians.

The original piano version has allowed us to re-imagine The Most Happy Fella with a modern musical theatre sensibility. In our discussions about the design, set designer, Patrick deWons and I were committed to keeping the story at the forefront of our production. Furniture and scenery have been kept to a minimum. In the staging, scenes overlap and transitions have been orchestrated with a cinematic quality in mind. This approach and the expertise of Broadway veteran Musical Director, Jeffrey Huard, has enabled us to trim some of the scene change music and reprises, which were written to accommodate massive set changes and to facilitate getting a 56 person cast on and off stage.

The Most Happy Fella’s story of an older man and his mail order bride draws an interesting contemporary parallel to the dating world of the internet, where posting an overly flattering photo online might land you a mate. Perhaps, that is part of the reason why this young cast has been so passionate and fearless in their approach to telling this story almost a half a century later. Their immense talent, professionalism and dedication are truly inspiring. I hope you enjoy watching their performances as much as I have enjoyed working with them.

~ Darcy Evans

CAST

The Country Girl ................. Kyla Musser
The Priest .................... Ryan Brown
The Doctor ................... Alex Dvorak
Tessie ..................... Jennifer Rooney**
Gussie ..................... Joseph Murray
Ensemble: Sam DiGuiseppe, Jamie Melz, Colin Noel-Baldwin, Michael Cox, Alex Dvorak, Mathieu Bellemare, Josh Blackstone, Leanne Miller, Jacyin Serre, Jennifer Rooney, Katie Bromley**, Margaret Thompson, Julia MacLennan, Alessia Lupiano, Natalia Gracieus**, Tess Barao, Kelly McNamee
* Assistant Director ** Dance Captain *** Vocal Coaches

The Most Happy Fella was originally presented at The Goodspeed Opera House and transferred to Broadway in January 1992 where it ran for 229 performances. This two piano version has allowed us to re-imagine The Most Happy Fella with a modern musical theatre sensibility. In our discussions about the design, set designer, Patrick deWons and I were committed to keeping the story at the forefront of our production. Furniture and scenery have been kept to a minimum. In the staging, scenes overlap and transitions have been orchestrated with a cinematic quality in mind. This approach and the expertise of Broadway veteran Musical Director, Jeffrey Huard, has enabled us to trim some of the scene change music and reprises, which were written to accommodate massive set changes and to facilitate getting a 56 person cast on and off stage.

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~ Darcy Evans

CAST OF CHARACTERS

The Cashier ...................... Brett Schaller
Cleo .......................... Maria Becker
Rosabella .................... Julianne Hobby
The Postman .................. Colin Noel-Baldwin
Farnsworth .............. Jennifer Rooney
Tony ......................... Jordan Till
Marie ....................... Kyle McShan
Max ........................... Sam DiGuiseppe
Herman ................. Kevin Morris*

Clem ........................ Andrew Morrisey
Jake ........................ Brent York
Al .......................... Simon Gordon
Joe ......................... Keenan Vieu
Giuseppe ............... Joel Gomez
Pasquale .............. Brett Schaller
Ciccio ..................... Ian Cheverie

The Doctor .................... Ryan Brown
The Priest .................... Alex Dvorak
Tessie ..................... Jennifer Rooney**
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Ensemble: Sam DiGuiseppe, Jamie Melz, Colin Noel-Baldwin, Michael Cox, Alex Dvorak, Mathieu Bellemare, Josh Blackstone, Leanne Miller, Jacyin Serre, Jennifer Rooney, Katie Bromley**, Margaret Thompson, Julia MacLennan, Alessia Lupiano, Natalia Gracieus**, Tess Barao, Kelly McNamee
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www.421W54.com
Still photos, videotaping or other video recording of this production is strictly prohibited.