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University  
of Victoria

## CANADIAN-BORN BROADWAY HIT IS THE PHOENIX'S BIGGEST SONG & DANCE SHOW IN OVER A DECADE

*Phoenix welcomes internationally renowned choreographer Jacques Lemay as guest director*

### 2018-19 Season

#### 2 **The Drowsy Chaperone**

**November 8– 24, 2018**

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

Director & Choreographer Jacques Lemay  
Set Designer Bryan Kenney  
Costume Designer Graham McMonagle  
Lighting Designer Patrick Du Wors  
Sound Designer Eva Hocking  
Vocal Coach & Music Supervisor Nancy Curry  
Stage Manager Emily Lindstrom

*Winner of five Tony Awards, this original Canadian play is a fun-loving send-up of old Broadway. As the record spins on a man's favourite musical, colourful, over-the-top characters spring to life in his tiny apartment.*

Continuing in 2019...

#### 3 **Trojan Women**

**February 14 – 23, 2019**

By Euripides, Translation by Alan Shapiro  
Directed by Jan Wood

*Written in 415 BCE, this Greek tragedy was the first play about the brutal aftermath of war. It shifts our perspective from the victors, to the wives, mothers and daughters of the defeated Trojan warriors.*

#### 4 **7 Stories**

**March 14 – 23, 2019**

By Morris Panych  
Directed by Fran Gebhard

*Fast-paced and full of eccentric characters, this sophisticated satire takes place on the window ledge of a seven-storey building.*

#### **Phoenix Theatre Media Contact:**

Adrienne Holierhoek, Marketing & Communications  
Department of Theatre  
email: [aholierh@uvic.ca](mailto:aholierh@uvic.ca) | 250-721-7992  
[www.phoenixtheatres.ca](http://www.phoenixtheatres.ca) | Box Office: 250-721-8000

*"Mix ups, mayhem and a gay wedding... of course the phrase gay wedding has a different meaning now... but back then it just meant fun, that's all this show is – fun!"* says the Man in the Chair as he reads the back of the record cover of his favourite musical from 1928 – **The Drowsy Chaperone**. This fictitious musical is the foundation for the real 2006 Broadway hit musical, running at the Phoenix Theatre from November 8 to 24, 2018.

Eight years before it was the five-time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, **The Drowsy Chaperone** was a skit performed at a stag party for the marriage of two Toronto actors, Bob Martin and Janet Van De Graff. If the names and the plot sound familiar, those names are still reflected in the characters of the soon-to-be-betrothed couple in this musical-within-a-play. Bob Martin, the groom (the actor, not the character), enjoyed the performance so much, he joined the writing team of Don McKellar, Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison, creating his iconic character of "the Man in the Chair." **The Drowsy Chaperone** was then remounted for the Toronto Fringe Festival, winning rave reviews and attracting the support of Toronto über-producer, David Mirvish. Since then, it has been performed everywhere from Broadway to London's West End, making toes tap and capturing the hearts of musical lovers around the world.

*"It's a fun pastiche of old Broadway and the music is really quite lovely,"* says internationally renowned director, choreographer and Adjunct Professor in UVic's Department of Theatre, Jacques Lemay, who is the guest director and choreographer for the UVic production. *"It's remarkably both nostalgic and current, as we watch the parody of the past through the eyes of the imaginative, agoraphobic and slightly sarcastic narrator, the Man in the Chair, who's stuck here in the present."*

The real magic of **The Drowsy Chaperone** is derived from the transformation of the Man in the Chair's shabby one-room apartment where he listens to his records and escapes into the glamorous world of his musicals – in this instance, the glittering world of movie stars, highfalutin mansions, fantastical weddings, and of course, menacing pastry chef gangsters! Collaborating to create this illusion is a stellar design team of UVic alumni, including Set Designer Bryan Kenney (MFA '12), Costume Designer and PhD candidate Graham McMonagle (MFA '17) and Lighting Designer and professor Patrick Du Wors (BFA '02). Another PhD candidate, Nancy Curry, is the Music Supervisor and Vocal Coach, two current fourth-year students are the Sound Designer Eva Hocking and Stage Manager Emily Lindstrom.

*"The entire department has been anticipating this production since it was announced last spring,"* says Dr. Allana Lindgren, *"and with a cast of 19 students, it will be one of the biggest song and dance shows the Phoenix has produced in a well over a decade. We are in good hands with Jacques! We're also honoured to have someone with his vast experience as an international choreographer and director teaching several courses in our department this term."*

The public is invited to a free **Preshow Lecture, Friday, November 9 at 7pm** to discuss the role of Broadway nostalgia that is parodied in **The Drowsy Chaperone**, with Dr. Anthony Vickery, a theatre historian in the Department of Theatre who specializes in Broadway productions.

The Phoenix Theatre's 2018-19 season continues in the spring with the Greek classic **Trojan Women** (February 14-23, 2019), directed by Jan Wood, and closes with Morris Panych's existential, fast-paced dark comedy **7 Stories** (March 14 - 23, 2019), directed by Fran Gebhard. Three-show season subscriptions are still available for \$40.50.

Performances for **The Drowsy Chaperone** are as follows:

**Public Previews @8pm:** Tuesday & Wednesday, November 6 & 7

**Opening Night @8pm:** Thursday, November 8

**Evenings @8pm:** (Tuesday - Saturday) 8 (opening), 9 (preshow lecture), 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

**Matinees @2pm:** Saturdays, November 17 & 24

**Preshow Lecture @7pm:** Friday, November 9 with Prof. Anthony Vickery, Broadway Theatre Historian

**Single Tickets:** Weekends@8pm: \$30 | Weekdays: \$30 Adult, \$25 Senior, \$16 Student (Preview: \$10.00 after 5pm)

**Phoenix Box Office Opens:** October 30: Monday through Saturday from 12:00 to 8:30pm.

In person or charge by phone at (250) 721-8000.

**Season Subscriptions:** Available now: \$40.50 for a 3-show package.