WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS
PRESENTS:

CHICAGO

Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Original Choreography by Bob Fosse
Based on the play by Maurine Dallas Watkins
Script Adaptations By David Thompson

DIRECTOR
Stephen Kopel

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Philip M. Taylor

STAGE MANAGER
Remy Kristine Lierz

SCENIC/LIGHTING DESIGNER
David Neville

CHOREOGRAPHY
In the Style of Bob Fosse
Amy Baker Schwiethale,
Sabrina Vasquez

SOUND DESIGNER
Marlo Griffith

COSTUME DESIGNER
Jamie R Urban

CHICAGO is Presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.
MEET THE ARTISTS Cont.

David Neville (Scenic Design/Lighting Design) has designed lighting for over 300 productions for various regional theatres including Music Theatre of Wichita, Ordway Music Theatre, Papermill Playhouse, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Sacramento Music Circus, Portland Center Stage, North Carolina Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, Lyric Opera of Virginia, Theatre Under the Stars, Music Theatre West, Arkansas Rep and Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera. David has designed National tours, Off-Broadway, Off-off Broadway. As an assistant designer David has worked for the Metropolitan Opera, Cincinnati Ballet, the First National tour of Les Misérables and on several Broadway productions. Other projects include designs for national and international tours, working as a gaffer for PBS and Abu Dhabi TV.

JuleAnn Troutman (Accompanists) is a graduate of Oklahoma City University with a Masters of Music in piano and organ performance. She is a former piano student of Grace Welch at the American Conservatory and Robert Laughlin at OCU, a former organ student of Wilma Jensen and Antone Godding at OCU. She has performed both as a soloist and as collaborative artist with recitalists, ensembles, productions, and organizations throughout the Midwest and in Mexico. JuleAnn is currently employed by Wichita State University as pianist and lecturer for Auditions, Scene Study, Acting for Singers, and Directing a Musical classes and as a pianist for the ballet department. She has served as pianist and rehearsal accompanist for WSU Music Theater and Opera productions for the past eleven years, including the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival-selected productions of Pippin, The Wild Party and Smokey Joe’s Cafe. Her work as Musical Director and Arranger for the World Premiere of “Waltzing in Heaven” was awarded at the 2009 Region V KCACT Festival. In addition, JuleAnn is a co-chair and proud member of the WSU Accompanists Guild. In all her spare time, JuleAnn writes science fiction and fairy tales. Her book, “Yvohshihlan: The Guardian,” is currently available on Amazon.com.

Jamie R Urban (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working at WSU! As an Emporia State graduate, she is returning to Kansas from Southwestern University of Georgetown, TX where she previously worked as the Costume Shop Manager. Jamie also has an MFA in Costume Design and Production from Boston University. A small selection of her previous design credits include: Deus Ex Machina (WhirligigProductions), Circus Girl (The Hat Tree Theatrics), Snow White (Ballet Austin II), and Attic Space (Palindrome Theatre). Jamie’s biggest fan, and the costume shop mascot, is her dog, Mason. She would like to thank her loving, supportive parents, Tom and Patricia.

THE ORCHESTRA

Reed I
Jordon Wells

Trumpets
Brandon Pauley & Dalton Williams

Bass
Riley Day

Keyboard II
Alexis Korbe

Violin
Alexa Blackburn

Reed II
Jimmy Jensen

Percussion
Scott Taylor

Banjo
Kendall Wohaska

Conductor
Phil Taylor

Reed III
Matt Erickson

Trombone I
Mike Dawson

Keyboard I
JuleAnn Troutman

Violoncello

Trombone II
Mathew Adamek

Jamie R Urban

WhirligigProductions

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Demand Noose For ‘Prettiest’ Woman Slayer.” – Chicago Tribune, front page headline - April 4th, 1924

In 1924 Maurine Dallas Watkins, then a reporter for the Chicago Tribune, covered the sensational trials of notorious murderesses Belva Gaertner & Beulah Annan. Belva was accused of shooting her “gentleman companion” after an epic night of drinking, drugging and jazz clubs, while Beulah was accused of shooting her lover while her husband was at work. (Beulah allegedly shot him in the back and then spent the subsequent hours playing records, drinking and smoking, as she watched him die).

The two women were held at the Cook County Jail, in what the press affectionately referred to as ‘murderess row.’ Belva & Beulah were incarcerated with a slew of other colorful characters, including Sabella Nitti, who was accused of chopping up her husband (with the help of a friend) & Kitty Malm, who allegedly killed a guard during a botched robbery she and her husband had planned.

Maurine Dallas Watkins, one of the few female reporters covering the stories, was largely credited with turning these women into stars. She routinely wrote about the grisly murders, but also the beauty regimes of the various inmates. Belva, in particular, became famous for her beauty and stylish clothes & hair. She even went as far as to hold classes at the jail to help other female inmates look their best in court.

In 1926 Watkins published a play based on those events, which would eventually serve as the inspiration for Chicago – The Musical.

Belva & Beulah’s trials mesmerized the city. Their tales of infidelity, murder, booze, corruption, money & divorce dominated the headlines for months. The public’s insatiable appetite for scandal turned the women into over night celebrities, with every salacious detail of the murders, and subsequent trials, splashed across the front page. The public simply couldn’t get enough of the torrid tales, and the press was more than happy to oblige.

Isn’t it nice to know some things never change?
Amy Baker Schwiethale (Choreographer) Associate Professor of Musical Theatre, is grateful that Stephen Kopel was able to work with our students in this capacity and share his extensive professional experience with the WSU School of Performing Arts. Amy’s Professional Choreography Credits: MTWichita: Disney’s MY SON PINOCCHIO, HONKY! (Mary Jane Teall Award), GYPSY(Mary Jane Teall Award), and CAMELOT. Amy’s choreography has been showcased in NYC at the New York Jazz Choreography Project (Alvin Ailey Studios) and Traditions in Tap, with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, the Newton Mid-Kansas Symphony Orchestra and in numerous capacities at WSU as Director/Choreographer. Most notably as the Director/Choreographer for Smokey Joe’s Café that was selected to be performed at the Regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and went on to receive eight awards from the National KCACTF in Washington, D.C. such as “Distinguished Production of a Musical” and “Distinguished Direction & Choreography.” Professional Performing Highlights: Phyllis Dale—First National Broadway Tour of 42nd STREET, RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, SINGIN’ IN THE RAIN at the Westchester Broadway Theatre, and performing in the resident MTWichita company for five summers where she also played the role of Anytime Annie in their most recent production of 42ND STREET. She has a BFA in Musical Theatre from WSU and an MFA in Choreography from Jacksonville University. Amy is fiercely committed to the preservation of Original Broadway choreography and preparing WSU Performing Arts students to make a living doing what they love.

Sabrina Vasquez (Choreographer) began her dance training in Tucson Arizona, as an apprentice with Arizona Dance Theatre under the artistic direction of Jean Paul Comelin. While at the University of Arizona she performed the modern, ballet, jazz, and mime theatre works of Douglas Nielsen, Jory Hancock, Melissa Lowe, Susan Quinn Williams and Nick Johnson. Hubbard Street Dance Chicago hired Sabrina in 1995 as a member where she performed the works of Twyla Tharp’s Sinatra Suites, Step out of Love by Margo Sappington and Daniel Ezralow’s Read my Hips. During her years in Chicago, she also performed with the James Kelly Choreography Project, Chicago Tribune Charities Nutcracker choreographed by Ruth Page, under the direction of Larry Long and Ballet Theatre of Chicago. Since her arrival to Wichita, Sabrina has performed with Music Theatre Wichita in Kismet and choreographed Chicago for the Crown Uptown Theatre. While at WSU, she has collaborated with WSU Opera/Musical Theatre on the productions of Les Indes Galantes, Ruddigore, Candide, The Desert Song, and Pippin, which was an alternate for the 2005 ACTF Kennedy Center Festival. In 2007 she received an Individual Artist Fellowship Award for Choreography from the Kansas Arts Commission and was the recipient of the Dorothy Johansen Hauck Faculty Fellow in Dance and Musical Theatre in 2012.

Sabrina is a full time instructor of dance at Wichita State University and serves as the Associate Artistic Director of Wichita Contemporary Dance Theatre (WCDT) and Alithea Mime Theatre. Her dance choreography has been seen for numerous years in the Kansas Dance Festival, WCDT spring concert as well as the dance program’s multidisciplinary projects of Cinderella, Wise’s of Oz and Brave New World. Sabrina’s work has also toured internationally with WCDT repertory concerts to Taiwan, Italy and Colima, Mexico. Alithea Mime Theatre has toured to the International Mime Art Festival, Warsaw, Poland, in 2000 and 2009, The 1st International Mime and Physical Theatre Festival in the Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 2001, the 2005 Shanghai International Arts Festival and New York City at the United Nations in 2006.

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**MEET THE ARTISTS Cont.**

**Caleb Reich** (Swing) is an exchange student from Minnesota State University Moorhead studying at WSU this semester. Caleb is originally from Medina ND and didn’t begin performing theatrically until after enrolling at MSUM. He has since performed with MTFM, FMCT, Straw Hat Summer Players, James Sewell Ballet, and FM Ballet. **CHICAGO** marks his 1st full scale show. This is his first time as a Swing and he has enjoyed the experience. He would like to thank all of the students and faculty for being so kind and welcoming him into their family. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**Stephen Kopel** (Director) is a proud alumnus of WSU’s music theatre program, and is thrilled to return to the university after directing **Violet** in 2014. Stephen currently resides in New York City, where he serves as casting director for Roundabout Theatre Company & Jim Carnahan Casting. Broadway credits include: **Holiday Inn** (upcoming), **She Loves Me, Noises Off, On the Twentieth Century, Beautiful – The Carole King Musical, Violet, The Winslow Boy, The Glass Menagerie, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Once, Harvey, Don’t Dress for Dinner, On A Clear Day You Can See Forever, The Road to Mecca, Anything Goes, The People in the Picture, The Scottsboro Boys, Brief Encounter, Sondheim on Sondheim & Hedda Gabler. Select Off-Broadway credits include: The Robber Bridegroom, Invisible Thread, Indian Ink, The Common Pursuit & The Milk Train Doesn’t Stop Here Anymore. Stephen also serves as resident casting director for Encore! Off-Center, a musical theatre series that presents concert versions of landmark Off-Broadway musicals. Recent credits at Encores! include: **Little Shop of Horrors** (with Jake Gyllenhaal & Ellen Greene), **A New Brain** (with Jonathan Groff & Ana Gasteyer), The Wild Party (with Sutton Foster & Steven Pasquale) and **Tick Tick...BOOM!** (with Leslie Odom Jr. & Lin Manuel-Miranda). Stephen also works with many of the nation’s top regional theaters, recently casting productions for the American Repertory Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company & Hartford Stage. He is a three-time recipient of the Casting Society of America’s Artios Award, bestowed annually for excellence in casting. In his free time Stephen enjoys serving as a guest artist and lecturer at universities across the country. A huge thanks to this remarkable company of actors, designers, crew members & musicians. Special thanks to Linda, Amy, Sabrina & Phil, for being the best partners in crime a guy could ever ask for.

**Phil Taylor** (Music Director) is a graduate of both School of Music and School of Performing Arts at Wichita State University with Bachelors in Music and Speech/Theatre Education. He has worked for WSU Theatre, City Rep of Wichita, Wichita Children’s Theatre, Christian Youth Theatre, MTYP Wichita and Theatre in the Park in Shawnee Mission, Kansas. Favorite productions include **West Side Story, A New Brain, Putting It Together**, for which he also served as stage director, and **She Loves Me** and **Guys & Dolls**, directed by Wayne Bryan of Music Theatre of Wichita. He has music directed/ conducted **A Chorus Line, Next to Normal and White Christmas** for the Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre. He has served as musical director for KC **Superstar** for two seasons, which featured George Wendt (Cheers) and Shannon Durig (Hairspray). He has been awarded outstanding music direction by the American College Theatre Festival for the productions of **TICK, TICK...BOOM!**, **I Love You, You’re Perfect Now Change, Children of Eden, The Wild Party and Putting It Together.** Philip has also been seen on stage in WSU’s **A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Shadowbox** (Irene Ryan Nomination) and **How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying**. Besides work in the theatre, Philip serves as music director for Maize United Methodist Church and he currently teaches K-8 Theatre at Christa McAuliffe Academy in USD259. He is a member of ACDA and NAfME. Thank you to Stephen Kopel, Amy Baker-Schwiethale, JuleAnn Troutman and Linda Starkey for your professionalism, creativity and friendship! Enjoy the show!

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