

# THE CURTAIN COMES UP...



on a man sitting in a threadbare armchair in a drab and shabby apartment.

He puts an old 78 record on the record player and starts to tell us about his favourite show...

# THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

*a musical within a comedy*



# WHO WROTE IT?

- ✿ Music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison
- ✿ Book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar



# PRODUCTION HISTORY



- \* **1998: first performed by friends for the wedding of Robert Martin and Janet Van de Graaf**
- \* **Martin joined the original creators to revise the show for the Toronto Fringe Festival**
- \* **Mirvish Productions financed expanded production at the Winter Garden Theatre 2001**
- \* **Interest from Broadway producers led to an out-of-town engagement in Los Angeles**
- \* **Culminated in the show opening on Broadway on May 1, 2006; it ran over 700 performances**
- \* **A hit with New York critics and audiences; won 5 Tonys and 7 Drama Desk awards.**

# What's it About?

This is a romantic comedy, typical of the era, full of mistaken identities, misunderstandings, and catchy song and dance numbers.

When a Broadway star wants to give up the stage for love, her producer tries to sabotage her wedding in order to save the show - and his own neck from two gangsters masquerading as pastry chefs.

Featuring a Latin lothario, a ditzy chorine, an overwhelmed best man, a confused hostess and her efficient and devoted manservant, and of course a drowsy chaperone, this musical within a comedy is a delightful homage to a simpler and less cynical time.

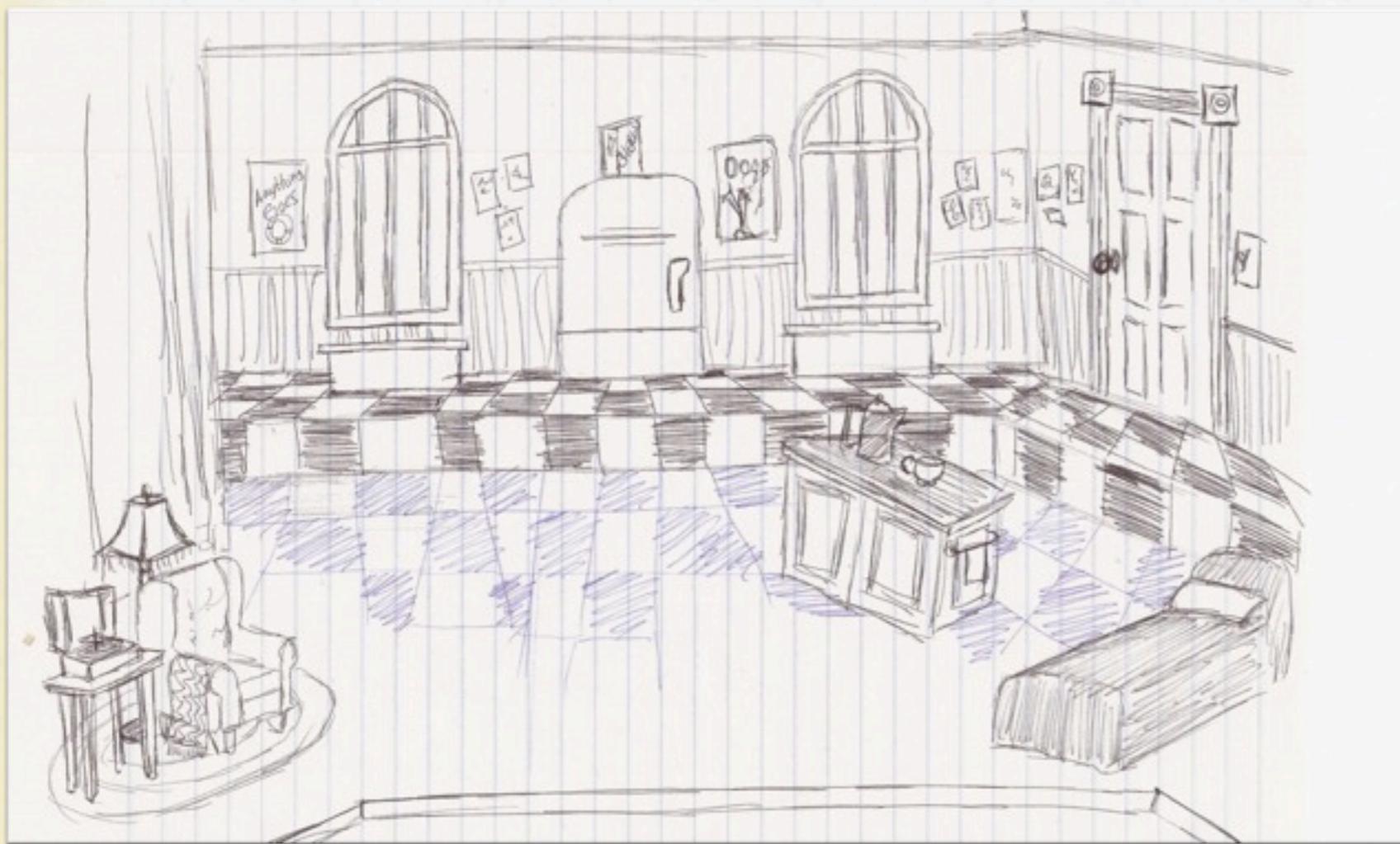


# WHAT'S THE FEEL?

- ✿ Spoof of Jazz Age musicals
- ✿ Affectionate homage to vaudeville era techniques
- ✿ Full of colour and silliness
- ✿ Light, bubbly, and nonsensical
- ✿ Contrast between the gloomy reality of Man in Chair and his vivid imagination
- ✿ Man is Chair is the audience's portal to the show. He recognizes and admits to its flaws but loves the show in spite of them



# SETTING THE STAGE



# CAST REQUIREMENTS



- ✿ 5 women and 8 men in featured roles plus an ensemble
- ✿ Nice balance in size of roles - all roles have featured moments in the show
- ✿ Great roles for strong singers, dancers, and actors
- ✿ Great mix of ages and character types

# THE CREATIVE TEAM



Director: Rick Smith

Choreographer: Laura Wood

Musical Director: Andrew Rethazi

Set Designer/Stage Manager: Joe Recchia

Producer: Kristina Baron-Woods

# BUDGET

- The show will require an orchestra of approximately seven musicians for approximately \$2500.
- The show will require a number of period-authentic costumes for all the performers except Man in Chair. Most of the performers wear two or three costumes, so about there will be 30-40 costumes. We feel we can costume the show for approximately \$2000.
- No costs needed for amplifying the performers; however there will be minimal costs for a few important sound effects.
- Typical costs for lighting, programs and publicity.
- Set is a basic unit set, with a few additions. Many of the pieces, such as the upstage riser and windows, and possibly some furniture, can probably come from LCP stock. The set designer feels that the set budget should be approximately \$2000.
- Royalties are not known; however, performing rights are available for community theatre through Music Theatre International.

# WHY DO

# “THE DROWSY CHAPERONE”?

- ✿ It's fun and silly and entertaining! Nothing serious, no angst.
- ✿ It's a great show for March when it looks like winter is unending.
- ✿ It's not a “star vehicle”. It gives a wide variety of performers their moment in the spotlight - all character types, and all characters have a featured number.
- ✿ It has an old authentic feel and a new current vibe.
- ✿ It's home-grown Canadian goodness!



# WHO WILL WANT TO SEE IT AND HOW DO WE MARKET IT?

- ✿ It will appeal both to the “matinee ladies” and to the people who are into the newest, hippest theatre works.
- ✿ It’s a great show for people who enjoy musicals, but also a great show for those who enjoy making fun of musicals.
- ✿ How do we market it?
  - ✿ The traditional ways of posters, appearances on local cable TV shows, bus ads if the budget allows.
  - ✿ A promotional performances at malls or seniors’ homes
  - ✿ We intend to have a strong web presence with Facebook and/or a website



**Questions?**