

THE COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

BOOK BY JOE MASTEROFF

MUSIC BY JERRY BOCK, LYRICS BY SHELDON HARNICK

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Originally Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince  
Originally Produced on Broadway by Harold Prince  
in Association with  
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Original Orchestrations by Don Walker  
Adapted by Frank Matosich, Jr.



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As artists in our community we have a responsibility to create a welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing environment where visitors and community members can gather and explore big ideas through live theatre. Fostering such an environment begins with education and reflection. Our Land Acknowledgement is just one way the Commonweal exercises our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Thank you to the Minnesota Historical Society, Lanesboro Historical Society, Prairie Island Indian Community, Mississippi Valley Archeology Center, and Mower County Historical Society for assisting in the research that led to the formation of our Land Acknowledgement.



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# WELCOME TO OUR 35th SEASON!

We bring this season, our thirty-fifth, to a close with the delightful musical, *She Loves Me*. It's a charming, heart-warming story based on the play *Parfumerie* (which we had produced in 2011). The story is also the basis for two popular movies *The Shop Around the Corner* and *You've Got Mail*. Complete with songs you may be singing throughout the holiday season ("Tonight at Eight," "Ice Cream," and the titular tune "She Loves Me"), we're sure you will leave the theatre with the warm glow that we know will stay with you throughout the rest of the year.

And, as always, thanks for joining us this year. We hope to see you again real soon!

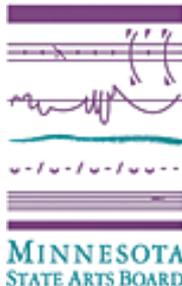


HAL CROPP  
Producing Artistic Director



The Commonwealth Theatre Company is a member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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# THE COMPANY

## THE ARTIST/ADMINISTRATOR

The Commonweal Theatre operates under a unique model in which all resident company members have specific, non-artistic responsibilities in addition to their artistic projects. This innovative approach has a great many benefits, most recently illustrated by the fact that we were able to keep our team fully employed throughout the pandemic, allowing us to reopen our doors and once again bring you professional live theater at the earliest possible opportunity—one of the first theaters in the nation to do so.



**LIZZY ANDRETTA** (she/her) is in her seventh season at the Commonweal, having first appeared in *The Elephant Man* (2017). Since then, she has appeared in *Dancing Lessons*, *Dracula: Prince of Blood*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and last season's *Leading Ladies* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She also served as the choreographer for *Peter & the Starcatcher*, *Stones in His Pockets*, and *A Christmas Carol* (2021). Lizzy holds a B.S. in theatre from Skidmore College and an M.F.A. from the East 15 Acting School in London.



**CODY BEYER** (he/him) is starting his first full season with the Commonweal after joining last summer. Last season, he co-designed props for *Good People* and appeared onstage in *Alice in Winter Wonderland*. Cody is an actor, designer, and builder who worked in Chicago for 7 years before joining this community with his partner and fellow company member, Laurie Roberts. In Chicago, he worked mostly with Theatre-Y and Hell in a Handbag Productions. Favorite credits include *Macbeth* and *Stories of the Body*. He received his B.A. in Theatre Honors from the University of Tennessee.



**STELA BURDT** (she/her) is grateful to celebrate her 24th season with our Commonweal family. Past onstage work includes roles in *Good People*, *Souvenir*, *Woody Guthrie's American Song*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Zombies from the Beyond*, *A Midnight Dreary*, *Harvey*, and *Man of La Mancha*. In addition to performing, Stela is a music director, sound designer, and freelance vocalist. Currently, Stela is in the role of a lifetime as mom to Kieran. Love and Light, #TeamScottyForever.



**HAL CROPP** (he/him) is in his 32nd season where favorite roles have been in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Come Back*, *Ghostwriter*, *Dracula*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *The Drawer Boy*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Christmas Carol*, *Groucho*, and *Talley's Folly*. Selected directing credits: *I Love to Eat*, *Headspace Theatre*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Brand*, *Heartland Portrait*, *Wild Duck*, *Measure for Measure*, *Peer Gynt*, *A Midnight Dreary*, *Enchanted April*, *Ghosts*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Hal holds a B.A. (Brown University), an M.B.A. (Santa Clara University), and an M.F.A. (the National Theater Conservatory). He was the Sally Irvine Award winner for Initiative (2006).



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## THE COMPANY



**DAVID HENNESSEY** (he/him) serves on the Commonweal development team and has appeared in more than 60 shows over 25 years, including Doc in *Leading Ladies*. Other favorites: *Headspace Theatre*, *Holmes and Watson*, *The Drawer Boy*, and *The Rainmaker*. He designed costumes for *Ice Maidens* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, oversees audio descriptions for the visually impaired, and leads COVID mitigation protocols. Other acting credits include In Heart Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Jungle Theatre, and American Players Theatre. He lives in Preston with Linda, his favorite scene partner for 50 years.



**SARA HUESER** (she/her) started as an apprentice at the Commonweal in 2022 and is joining the Resident Company. Favorite Commonweal credits: *Leading Ladies*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Good People*, and *Alice in Winter Wonderland*. Before Lanesboro, she worked for Centre Stage South Carolina. Originally from Newberrytown, PA, Sara holds a bachelor's in Computer Engineering and a B.F.A from Savannah College of Art and Design. Sara is grateful for the Commonweal and her parents for the outpouring of support.



**JACLYN JUNE JOHNSON** (she/they) joined the Commonweal in 2020. An arts administrator, actor, director, playwright, costume designer, and teaching artist, Jaclyn has credits across the country. Companies include St. Croix Festival Theatre, Children's Theatre Madison, Creede Repertory, Riverside Shakespeare Festival, Riverside Theatre, Chicago's UTG Improv Theatre. Jaclyn has a B.A. from Cornell College. She wishes to thank: her family, friends, spouse and their pets for their encouragement and love; and you for your support of the arts and the uniquely healing community of theatre.



**JOSIAH LAUBENSTEIN** (he/him) is in his fifth season at the Commonweal, serving as Literary Manager and Videographer. Commonweal credits include: *Leading Ladies*, *Dancing Lessons*, and *Boeing Boeing*. At Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, WI, he served as the Marketing Director and acted in nine productions over two years. Josiah earned his M.F.A. from the University of South Carolina. Josiah is a proud member of Glassbox Theatre Group and a co-founder of Highway Walkers Media Company. He is happily married to Rachel and besotted with their children, Franny and Julian.



**ISABELLA ANASTASIA LEIGH** (she/her) is elated to be joining Commonweal for her first season. Isa is a director, stage manager, and wardrobe artist from Madison, Wisconsin, most recently residing in Austin, Texas. Previously, she has worked with Austin Shakespeare, Broom Street Theater, Children's Theatre of Madison, Forward Theater, Jarrott Productions, Music Theatre of Madison, ScriptWorks, and StageQ, among others. Isa received her BA in Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Much love to her kitties, Rosalind and Beatrice.



**JOHN B. NICOL** (he/him) is excited to be returning to the Commonweal as a resident ensemble member! Born and raised in community theatres around Northeastern Iowa, he went on to receive his B.S. in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University, Mankato. There, he played Matt Friedman in *Talley's Folly* and Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Other regional credits: Willard Hewitt in *Footloose* at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Free to the People Theatre.



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## THE COMPANY



**LAURIE ROBERTS** (she/her) recently appeared in *Deathtrap* and choreographed *The Mystery of Edwin Drod*. Chicago credits include A Red Orchid Theatre, Hell in a Handbag, Facility Theatre, Theatre Y, and Red Tape Theatre. She also performed in Cincinnati at Know Theater and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Some of her favorite work has been devised and performed in Pontlevoy, France, and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Laurie has also worked as an acting teacher, movement director, and choreographer. She earned her M.F.A. in Acting at the U. of South Carolina. Love to Duke Orsino, Merry, and her wonderful partner, Cody.



**JODIT. RUSHING** (they/them) is in their fifth season at the Commonweal. Their favorite credits include *An Iliad* (Wealhouse), *On The Verge*, *I Love to Eat*, *Leading Ladies*, and *Good People*. Before their tech apprenticeship with the Commonweal in 2019, they stage managed for Doniphon Dance Project in Tupelo, MS. Jodi holds a B.A. in Theatre and Film from the University of Mississippi.



**TIM SAILER** (he/him) is in his sixth season at the company, serving as an actor and the Assistant Director of Marketing. Recent Commonweal credits include *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, and *Leading Ladies*. Other regional work includes appearances at American Shakespeare Center, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Park Square Theatre, and Theatre L'Homme Dieu. Tim holds an M.F.A. from the University of Houston. He lives in Lanesboro with his scruffy puppy Rufus.

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## THE COMPANY



**ALEX SCHLESINGER** (they/them) is excited to join the Resident Ensemble after their apprenticeship in 2022. Alex graduated from Luther College in 2021 with a B.A. in Theatre. You may have seen them last year as Durdles in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Stevie in *Good People*, and the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Winter Wonderland*. Their favorite role outside of the Commonwealth was Riff Raff in the *Rocky Horror Show*. Alex thanks their mentor, professor, and good friend Jeff Dintaman for his years of support and sharing of knowledge that got Alex to where they are today.



**ADRIENNE SWEENEY** (she/her) is grateful to be in her 23rd season, serving as Assoc. Artistic Dir. and Dir. of External Relations in addition to artistic roles. From Philadelphia, she holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the U/AZ. A commercial voice talent, she can be heard regionally on radio and TV. Commonwealth favorites include Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* ('21), *Silent Sky* (director), *Boeing Boeing*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Outside Mullingar*, and *Sylvia*. Adrienne believes that the act of sitting together in the dark, sharing stories, can help bring light to the world, something we all crave now more than ever. She looks forward to sharing time and space with you.



**JEREMY VAN METER** (he/him) is enjoying his 12th season at the Commonwealth. Favorite credits: Herb Tucker in *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, C.K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, Anthony Reilly in *Outside Mullingar*, and the title role in *Dracula: Prince of Blood* by Scott Dixon. His career began at The Barter Theatre (VA), and he has appeared regionally at Riverside Theatre, Lexington Children's Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Great River Shakespeare Festival. Jeremy holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the U. of Iowa and makes his home in Lanesboro with his lovely and extremely talented wife, Catherine Glynn.



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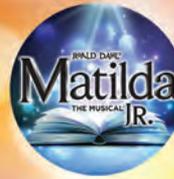
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# 2023–2024 APPRENTICE CLASS

## THE APPRENTICE PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Theatre Company offers exciting 11-month apprenticeships intended to help young theatre artists transition into the professional world. Apprentices serve on either a performance or technical track. Administratively, they work alongside company members on the Marketing, Development, and Production teams. Because of this rare organizational model, Commonwealth apprentices experience the full scope of running a nonprofit theatre company. It culminates in a final capstone production which is chosen, designed, and performed by the apprentice company.



**SYNTHIA GONZALEZ** (they/them) is a recent graduate from Augustana College with a B.A. in Theatre History and Theatre Tech & Design. Their favorite stage management credits include *Faustus*, *Lightning Thief*, *The Mountaintop*, *Ride The Cyclone*, and *Cabaret*. Other credits include 2021–22 Augustana Dance Co. recitals (lighting design), *The Threepenny Opera* (assistant dir.), *The God of Vengeance* (director and set design). They are so excited to be involved at the Commonwealth, and hope you enjoy the show!



**HANNAH HEIL** (she/her) is overjoyed to be joining the Commonwealth family as an acting apprentice! Hannah grew up in the Colorado mountains and graduated from NYU Steinhardt with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance: Music Theatre. Recent NYC credits include *The Wild Party*, *Assassins*, and *Damnation! The Musical!*, which Hannah co-created at NYU. Favorite regional credits include *A Chorus Line*, *Les Miserables*, and *EDGES: A Song Cycle*. Endless thanks to her mentor Alex, her besties Sonali and Ellie, and her loving, supportive family.



**JOSIE RAMLER** (they/them) is so excited to be working with the Commonwealth this season as an acting apprentice! Josie is from Chanhassen, MN and just graduated with a B.A. in Theatre from Luther College. Some of their favorite credits include playing Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Somebody in *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and assistant directing *Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell. They are so eager to be a part of the acting apprenticeship this year and to learn and grow with the Commonwealth!



**JOSEPH SHERIDAN** (he/him) is thrilled to be joining the Commonwealth as an apprentice! From Columbus, OH, Joseph has just graduated with a B.A. in Theatre and Arts Management from Miami University. Trading the small town of Oxford, OH for the even smaller town of Lanesboro, he's fulfilling no small dream: acting for the first time on the professional stage. Favorite credits include the original musical *The Butterflies' Promise* (writer and director), *Head Over Heels* (Dametas), and leading the student-run New Wave Theatre Company.



**THOMAS TEETER** (he/him) is overjoyed to be joining the Commonwealth apprentice program. Hailing from Topeka, KS, Tom has been a performer his entire life. A proud graduate of Carleton College and the National Theater Institute, his favorite projects include Louis XVI in *Marie Antoinette* at the Emerging Professionals Ensemble; *If I Should Die*, a play he wrote and starred in; and *That Wilderness of Glass*, a devised performance. While here, he hopes to make an impact on the Commonwealth.

Connect with the Commonwealth



## ALSO FEATURING



**ANNE BYRD** (director, she/her) is a Minneapolis based director, actor, and educator. Anne holds an MFA in Directing from Western Illinois University. She is delighted to be joining the Commonweal Theatre. Directing credits include productions for the Old Log Theatre, Six Points Theatre, Lyric Arts, Daleko Arts, and Yellow Tree Theatre, for whom she directed *The 39 Steps*, which earned her an Ivey Award for direction. She is a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees Outstanding Educator and Chairs the Department of Theatre at Normandale Community College.



**BETTY BATTOCLETTI** (choreographer, she/her) has been with the Commonweal since 2017, appearing in *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *Women in Jeopardy!*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Sanders Family Christmas*, *On the Verge*, *The Clean House*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Steel Magnolias*. Other favorite credits include *Always...Patsy Cline* (at Lyric Arts), and *The World Goes Round*, *Urinetown* (The Jungle Theater), as well as *42nd Street*, *Cassie in A Chorus Line* (Artistry), and *Georgie Bukatinsky in The Full Monty* (Theater Latte Da). She is a lyricist, playwright, choreographer and owns Bodiology Pilates in Minnetonka, MN.



**STEPHEN HOUTZ** (music director, he/him) returns to Commonweal after playing Louis in *Bernhardt/Hamlet*. Additional Commonweal credits include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Souvenir*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Uncle Vanya*. Twin Cities credits include Skylark Opera, The Minnesota Opera, Lakeshore Theatre, Chanhassen Theaters, Park Square Theatre. As a director/music director, he has worked with The Minnesota Opera, Park Square Theatre, SteppingStone Theatre, Lakeshore Theatre, and History Theatre. His musical compositions have been heard around the country.



**KATHY KOHL** (costume design, she/her) returns with delight to Commonweal, where she last costumed *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Over five decades she has provided costumes for nearly all Twin Cities theatres, east coast regional companies, and several Midwest academic institutions. Kathy is co-owner of The Costume Collective, helped edit the Minnesota Theater Safety Standards, and is an enthusiastic if not always successful gardener. BA in Education from Beloit College; MFA in Theatre Design from the U of M.



**ELEANOR SCHANILEC** (costume assistant, she/her) is excited to return to Commonweal after working on *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She's designed or assistant designed costumes for The Children's Theater, Six Points Theatre, Park Square Theater, Theatre Pro Rata, Open Window Theater, Sidekick Theater, Nautilus Music-Theater, Shakespeare Youth Theatre, and Saint Paul Academy and Summit School. She's a member and a co-founder of The Costume Collective MN. She's especially grateful for her kitty costume assistants, Dani and Zoe.



**PETER WEBER** (set design, he/him) is happy to join Commonweal for the first time. This is a great opportunity to work with some old friends and make new ones. Peter started in theatre out of high school as a stagehand. He moved on to become the summer stage manager at Festival Theatre while pursuing a B.A. in Studio Arts at Northland College in 2011. After a decade as Festival Theatre's Technical Director he left to start a construction LLC. He is excited to return to stagecraft for the design, build, and painting on *She Loves Me*.



**THOMAS WHITE** (lighting design, he/him) lives in Cedar Falls, IA, and works for Hansen's Dairy as a literal Milkman. Thomas was the resident lighting designer for the Oster Regent Theatre in Cedar Falls while earning a B.A. in technical theater from the University of Northern Iowa. Thomas is a founding member of Sissy's Circus, a burlesque troupe that pushes the boundaries of gender identity and sexuality through drag, dance, and theatre. Additional credits include the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and the Telluride Film Festival.

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Originally Produced on Broadway by Harold Prince  
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Original Orchestrations by Don Walker  
Adapted by Frank Matosich, Jr.

## **DESIGNERS & SPECIALISTS**

Director	Anne Byrd
Music Director	Stephen Houtz
Assistant Music Director	Hannah Heil
Set Design	Peter Weber
Costume Design	Kathy Kohl
Costume Assistant	Eleanor Schanilec
Lighting Design	Thomas White
Props Design	Adrienne Sweeney
Sound Design	Synthia Gonzalez
Choreography	Betti Battocletti
Rehearsal Stage Manager	Isabella Anastasia Leigh
Performance Stage Manager	Sara Hueser
Assistant Stage Managers	Synthia Gonzalez, Sara Hueser

## **CAST**

Arpad Laszlo	John B. Nicol
Ladislav Sipos	Cody Beyer
Ilona Ritter	Stela Burdt
Steven Kodaly	Tim Sailer
Georg Nowack	Josiah Laubenstein
Mr. Maraczek	Hal Cropp
Amalia Balash	Lizzy Andretta
Keller	Joseph Sheridan
Shoppers	Hannah Heil, Josie Ramler, Laurie Roberts
Busboy	Thomas Teeter
Waiter	Alex Schlesinger

## **SETTING**

*Budapest, 1934*

*There will be one 15-minute intermission, Please see the front of house staff for the precise run time of each act.*

**SHE LOVES ME is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)  
Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.**

## CREATOR BIOS



**JERRY BOCK** (music) was born in New Haven, Connecticut on November 23rd, 1928. That was his first out-of-town tryout. Thirty years later, he and Sheldon Harnick gave birth to *The Body Beautiful* in Philadelphia. That was his fourth out-of-town tryout. In between was *Catch a Star*, a fleeting revue that, according to critic Walter Kerr, posed the question; "What do you call something between a flop and a smash?" Kerr's answer? "A flash!" Next, Jule Styne and Tommy Valano midwived Bock, Larry Holofcener and George Weiss into birthing *Mr. Wonderful* starring Sammy Davis Jr. The title song and "Too Close For Comfort" are still active off springs. Bock and Harnick's celebrated collaboration yielded five scores in seven years. *The Body Beautiful*, *Fiorello!* (winner of Broadway's

triple crown: The Tony Award, The New York Critics' Circle Award and The Pulitzer Prize in drama, the fourth musical to do so). *Tenderloin*, *She Loves Me* - (winner of Variety's poll of critics as best musical, citing Bock and Harnick as best composer and lyricist). *Fiddler on the Roof* - (nine Tonys, notably the citation for best musical of the year), *The Apple Tree* and *The Rothschilds*. In addition to the 1989 silver anniversary production of *Fiddler* (from which a major excerpt was featured in *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*), a highly esteemed revival of *The Rothschilds* enjoyed a successful run off-Broadway the following year. Since then, Bock and Harnick were triply honored by being inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame, receiving the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Spirit of American Creativity Award from the Foundation for a Creative America. But the "award" that Bock holds near and dear is the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Wisconsin. It was there that he met his wife Patti, and it was there that he decided to be a composer. Mr. Bock is a member of a number of professional guilds and associations, among which the BMI Foundation, Inc. is a membership he relishes. As for Patti, his wife; George, their son; and Portia, their daughter, Bock confesses they are his longest-running hit.



**SHELDON HARNICK'S** (lyrics) career began in the 1950s with songs in revues (e.g., "The Boston Beguine," "The Merry Little Minuet"). With Jerry Bock he created a number of memorable musicals, including *Fiorello!* (Tony Award, Pulitzer Prize), *Tenderloin*, *She Loves Me* (Grammy), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tony), *The Apple Tree*, and *The Rothschilds* (subsequently revised as Rothschild & Sons). Other collaborations: *Rex* (Richard Rodgers), *A Christmas Carol* (Michel Legrand), *A Wonderful Life* (Joe Raposo), *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Arnold Black, Norton Juster), and *The Audition* (Marvin Hamlisch). He has written three musicals himself: *Dragons*, *A Doctor*

*in Spite of Himself*, and *Malpractice Makes Perfect*. He and his wife Margery currently reside in New York City.

**JOE MASTEROFF** (book) was best known as the book writer for the Tony Award-winning *Cabaret*. Coming to New York from Philadelphia after attending Temple University and serving in the U.S. Air Force, he was represented in New York City by the play *The Warm Peninsula*, the libretto for an operatic version of Eugene O'Neill's *Desire Under the Elms* and the book and lyrics for a recent production of *Six Wives* at the York Theatre Company.



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## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR



In 1963, Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, (the team behind *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Fiorello!*) gave us the delightful confection *She Loves Me*. The storyline may feel familiar if you have seen the charming Jimmy Stewart film, *The Shop Around the Corner*, or the Tom Hanks/Meg Ryan movie, *You've Got Mail*. This version is set in Budapest, Hungary in the precarious mid-1930s between the waning Great Depression and the encroaching second World War. In the dreamy, romantic parfumerie of Maracek's, the employees dote on their customers while searching for their own happy-ever-afters. The play is an invitation to look past some idealized version of the storybook ending and embrace a more genuine affection in the pursuit of love. This is the true charm of the musical—that in these characters, with all their quirks and imperfections, we can see ourselves, and know that we all are worthy of authentic love, supportive friendships, and joyful camaraderie. We hope your holiday season is full of all three.

## SPECIAL THANKS

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**Concessions**  
available before the show  
and during intermission.

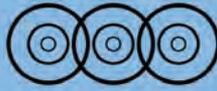
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**Please note: concessions are not allowed in the theatre.**

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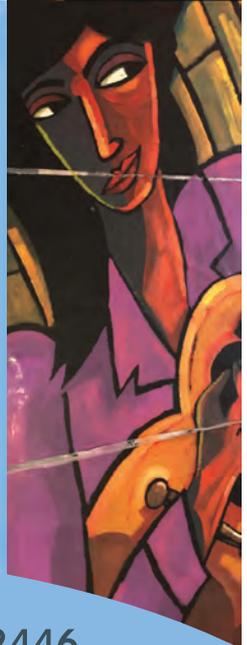
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