

MEDIA RELEASE



THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY LISA LAMBERT & GREG MORRISON BOOK BY BOB MARTIN & DON MCKELLAR

FIVE-TIME TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL MAKES ITS AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



Heidi
Arena



Rohan
Browne



Rhonda
Burchmore



Shane
Jacobson



Adam
Murphy



Robyn
Nevin



Zahra
Newman



Richard
Piper



Grant
Piro



Josh
Piterman



Alex
Rathgeber



Geoffrey
Rush



Troy
Sussman



Hester
van der Vyver



Christie
Whelan

The most celebrated musical comedy from the 2006 Broadway Season, **The Drowsy Chaperone** - a star-studded, sequin-drenched, lollapalooza of a musical comedy will make its Australian Premiere on **Thursday 21 January 2010 at 8:00pm at the Arts Centre, Playhouse.**

Directed by MTC Artistic Director **Simon Phillips**, this witty homage to the glittery stage shows of the 1920s will be fronted by the one and only **Geoffrey Rush**, who plays Broadway aficionado, 'the Man in the Chair'. Remaining on stage throughout the production, 'the Man in the Chair' escapes his dreary days by playing - and replaying - a recording of a 1928 stage musical comedy, **The Drowsy Chaperone.**

Listening to the scratchy sounds of his hi-fi, the musical magically bursts to life on stage, as 'the Man in the Chair' tells the tale of a Broadway starlet Janet Van De Graaff (**Christie Whelan**) who wants to give up show business to get married, her producer Feldzieg (**Shane Jacobson**), who sets out to sabotage the nuptials, society wedding hostess Mrs Tottendale (**Robyn Nevin**), her butler Underling (**Richard Piper**), the debonair groom Robert Martin (**Alex Rathgeber**) and his best man George (**Rohan Browne**), the dizzy chorine Kitty (**Heidi Arena**), the Latin lover Aldolpho (**Adam Murphy**) and a pair of gangsters (**Grant Piro** and **Karlis Zaid**) who double as pastry chefs, the winged wedding celebrant Trix (**Zahra Newman**) and the eponymous Drowsy Chaperone (**Rhonda Burchmore**).

Adding to the general malarkey are **Josh Piterman**, **Hester van der Vyver** and **Troy Sussman**.

The show-within-a-show is a pastiche of every lame excuse to string together a series of the most enchanting tunes that have ever been written, and called a musical. Luxuriating in the nostalgic hiss of vinyl, 'the Man in the Chair' moves between his desire to absorb every moment of the show as it unfolds and to insert his personal footnotes as he brings the audience up to speed with the fantasy.

The Drowsy Chaperone received more Tony Awards than any other musical of the 2006 Broadway Season, including Best Book (Bob Martin & Don McKellar), Original Score (Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison), Costume Design (Gregg Barnes) and Scenic Design (David Gallo). The production was also awarded the 2006 Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Musical.

Director Simon Phillips
Musical Director Mathew Frank
Choreographer Andrew Hallsworth
Set and Costume Designer Dale Ferguson
Lighting Designer Matt Scott
Associate Director Dean Bryant

'If you don't love Drowsy there's no hope for the world.'
New York Observer

The Drowsy Chaperone - the Arts Centre, Playhouse

Season dates: 18 January to 20 February 2010

Opening night: Thursday 21 January 2010 at 8:00pm

Tickets: From \$95.00

Booking information: MTC Box Office (03) 8688 0800, mtc.com.au, Ticketmaster 1300 723 038, theartscentre.com.au or 1300 182 183

Mini Subscriptions now on sale: 3-6 Play Packages including *The Drowsy Chaperone* start from as little as \$135.00 (Under 30s), 03 9684 4555 or mtc.com.au

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