

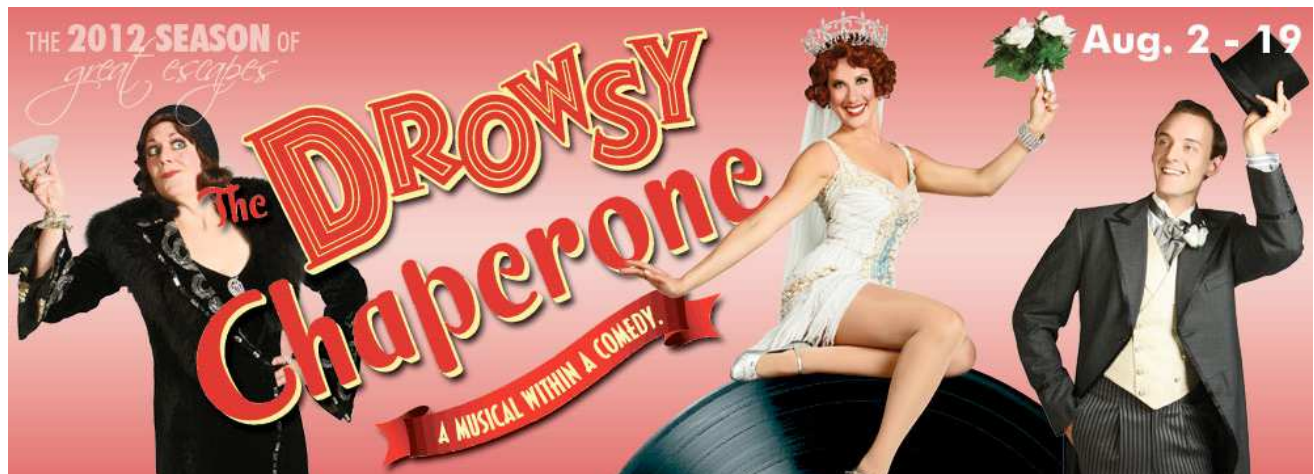
BROADWAY ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Broadway Rose Theatre Company Presents a Musical within a Comedy



Tigard, OR – The Broadway Rose Theatre Company continues its 2012 season of Great Escapes with *The Drowsy Chaperone*. A multiple Tony Award winner, *The Drowsy Chaperone* pays tribute to the Jazz-Age shows of the 1920s and their power to transport us into a dazzling fantasy and to lift our spirits in hard times. It all begins when a die-hard musical-theater fan plays his favorite cast album on his turntable, and the musical literally bursts to life in his living room. *The Drowsy Chaperone* will be performed at the **Deb Fennell Auditorium**. Preview performance is August 2 with opening night on **Friday, August 3**, and performances continue through **August 19, 2012**. Evening performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays, and on Saturdays, August 11 and 18. The Deb Fennell Auditorium is located at 9000 SW Durham Road in Tigard. Tickets **start at \$30** for adults, with discounts available for groups and youth. For a full listing of show performances or to order tickets visit www.broadwayrose.org or call the box office at 503.620.5262.

The Drowsy Chaperone was written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar with music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison. The production debuted in 1998 at The Rivoli in Toronto and opened on Broadway on May 1, 2006. The show won five Tony Awards including Best Book and Best Score. It started as a spoof of old musicals written by friends for the stag party of Bob Martin and Janet Van De Graaff. The show has had major productions in Toronto, Los Angeles, New York, London, and Japan, as well as two North American tours.

The musical revolves around one musical theater fan's obsession with a fictional show from the 1920s – "The Drowsy Chaperone." As he listens to the record, the characters come to life in his apartment. This is the story of a Broadway actress, Janet Van De Graaff, who wants to marry the debonair Robert Martin and give up her stage career. Janet's producer, Mr. Feldzieg, must stop the wedding because if she quits show business, he'll lose his job! Further, gangsters threaten Mr. Feldzieg since if Janet quits, they lose their investment. All of this comes to life out of the imagination of "The Man in the Chair" as 1920s mayhem and mischief ensue. It's an old-fashioned, laugh-a-minute crowd pleaser.

The Broadway Rose cast of *The Drowsy Chaperone* includes Dan Murphy as The Man in the Chair, Gretchen Rumbaugh as The Drowsy Chaperone, Lindsay Michelet as Janet Van De Graaff, Joel Walker as Robert Martin, Norman Wilson as self-proclaimed Latin lover Aldolpho, Emily Beleele as Mrs. Tottendale, Bruce Blanchard as Mr. Feldzieg, Sara Catherine Wheatley as his ditzy flapper girlfriend Kitty, and Jocelyn Seid as Trix the aviatrix. The production is directed and choreographed by Lyn Cramer with musical direction by Eric Little and music supervision by Rick Lewis.

Broadway Rose's Title Sponsor is **Platt Electric Supply**. Production Sponsor for *The Drowsy Chaperone* is **Portland Spirit**. The production is supported in part by an award from the **National Endowment of the Arts** and the **Kinsman Foundation**. Broadway Rose's 2012 season is funded in part by the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art** as well as the **Oregon Arts Commission** and the **City of Tigard**.

BROADWAY ROSE THEATRE COMPANY, a not-for-profit arts organization, has been successfully producing musical theater in Tigard since 1992 under the artistic direction of Sharon Maroney. As the only professional musical theater company in Washington County, Broadway Rose plays an important role in enriching the community's cultural arts. Committed to increasing opportunities for Oregonians to participate in the arts and working to retain Portland's talent pool and attract new talent to the area, Broadway Rose is resolved to keep live theater affordable and make its productions accessible to all ages and members of the community. The Broadway Rose Theatre was selected as one of the "100 Best Nonprofits to Work For in Oregon" by Oregon Business Magazine in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and it was selected as the 2009 "Business of the Year" by the Tigard Chamber of Commerce.

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