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## 'Anything Goes' for the MAS

By DAVE LAVENDER  
The Herald-Dispatch  
Feb 18, 2015



Courtesy of Jeremy Daniel Emma Stratton as Reno Sweeney and Brian Krinsky as Billy Crocker in the national tour of "Anything Goes." The show will play Monday, Feb. 23, at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center as part of the Marshall Artists Series.  
The Herald-Dispatch

HUNTINGTON — The temperatures have dropped down to degrees only an Eskimo could love.

And Jack Frost's icy breath has whipped up a complete white covering of slippery crystals.



Geez, wouldn't it be dandy if a cruise ship - chock full of comedy, dance, smiles and romance - pulled in, ready to depart from Huntington with us all aboard?

Well, it has and you can thank the Marshall Artists Series later, as the good ship S.S. American will be docked at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, as the laugh-and-dance-filled national tour of "Anything Goes," sets sail.



Courtesy of Jeremy Daniel Mychal Phillips as Erma and Ensemble in the national tour of "Anything Goes." The show will play Monday Feb. 23, at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center as part of the Marshall Artists Series.  
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Tickets are \$93.95, \$77.90, \$67.20 and \$60.78 and on sale at the Marshall Artists Series Box Office at 304-696-6656, online at Ticketmaster.com or at the box office which is open noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse on the Marshall University campus.

Fresh off of a stellar jazz and R&B-juiced Mountain Stage, the Artists Series brings in the national tour of the big Broadway song-and-dance-packed zesty revival of "Anything Goes," that is known for its high energy tap and ballroom dance numbers and its infectious music by the late, American icon Cole Porter.

"Anything Goes" features notable music composed by Porter, including "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," "Friendship," "It's De-Lovely," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow" and of course "Anything Goes."

Speaking on the road from a snow-packed Cincinnati, cast member, Rachelle Rose Clark, a California native who plays Hope, said "Anything Goes" is just the kind of warm night of romance, comedy and dance that they love presenting each night.

"We've been out since Oct. 14 and we are scheduled until May so we just passed the halfway mark for performances and we love this story more every night," Clark said. "There is so much great music and big tap and ballroom numbers to see that there is always something in there to make you smile.



It's a really special show to share with people every night."

For folks who don't know the story, "Anything Goes," is a musical comedy set aboard the ocean liner S. S. American, where nightclub singer/evangelist Reno Sweeney is en route from New York to England.

Her pal Billy Crocker has stowed away to be near his love, Hope Harcourt, but the problem is Hope is engaged to the wealthy Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Joining this love triangle on board the luxury liner are Public Enemy #13, Moonface Martin and his sidekick-in-crime Erma. With the help of some elaborate disguises, tap-dancing sailors and good old-fashioned blackmail, Reno and Martin join forces to help Billy in his quest to win Hope's heart.

Think the same kind of cross-class-climbing love of "Titanic" without all the tragedy and with amazing tap numbers, campy jokes, unlikely happy endings and eminently hummable songs.

Based on the original book by Wodehouse, Bolton, Lindsay & Crouse and new book by Crouse and Weidman, "Anything Goes" stays true to its origin.

Helping to preserve this storyline are leading actress Emma Stratton as Reno Sweeney and leading actor Brian Krinsky as Billy Crocker. The principal cast also includes Tracy Bidleman as Mrs. Evangeline Harcourt, Anthony Chan as John, and Rachelle Rose Clark as Hope Harcourt.

Clark said she loves the fast-paced and farcical comedy that infuses the entire show reminding her of some of the best British comedies.

"The nice thing about our show compared to 'Titanic' is that our show is a complete comedy and there is so much humor and tap dancing and ballroom dancing and it is like a British comedy in that you have all of these different personalities and characters, just one after another, so it's a bit of a non-stop comedy and it is great because Hope is the one more sensitive and serious part of the show," Clark said.

Clark said she loves her character and how she struggles with following her head or her heart into love.

"Hope is really caught between what society expects and what her heart tells her to do," Clark said. "I think that is a known place for a lot of people who have that moment where they have to make decisions and they have a lot of people who care about them who may want a certain thing and they

want to please everyone yet they need to try and stay true to themselves. I think that is reflective of many people's lives and is such an important story to tell. I can relate to that and I think people need to know that they are not alone in feeling that."

Clark said one of the best things about the musical is how Porter's great songs propel forward. "Anything Goes" musical revival in 2011 received a total of nine Tony Award nominations and 10 Drama Desk Award nominations, including Best Actress in a Musical, Best Director of a Musical and Best Revival of a Musical. The revival won the Drama Desk Awards and Tony Awards for Best Revival and Best Choreography and Foster won the Drama Desk and Tony Awards for Best Actress in a Musical.

"I honestly love my character and that helps keep it fresh when you are doing the same show every night," Clark said. "We are reliving it every night and we try to keep each other on our toes that helps me keep it really alive and you get lost in the music. Cole Porter's music really tells a story and it is super relatable and easy to get lost in the moment over and over again."

If You Go:

WHAT: The national tour of the Cole Porter musical, "Anything Goes," winner of three Tony Awards multiple times, including Best Musical Revival and Choreography

WHERE: The historic Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, 925 4th Ave., Huntington

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23

HOW MUCH: \$93.95/\$77.90/\$67.20/\$60.78

GET TICKETS: Contact the Marshall Artists Series Box Office at 304-696-6656. Or order tickets online at Ticketmaster.com. You may also visit their box office located in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse on the Marshall University campus from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

SPONSORS: Chase Bank, Oldies 97.1, WVHU, WSAZ, The Herald-Dispatch, Marshall University, and The Marshall Artists Series.

ON THE WEB: Go online at [www.marshall.edu/muartsr](http://www.marshall.edu/muartsr)

NEXT:



Spring International Film Festival - Six award-winning independent and foreign films. The film fest runs Friday, March 27 to Thursday, April 2 featuring films from France, Poland, Portugal, Chile, Iceland, Singapore, and the U.S., at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center.

"Beauty and the Beast" - The hit Broadway musical and classic Disney love story "Beauty and the Beast" will come to life on the stage of the Keith-Albee at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April, 14. This romantic tale based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature film will capture the hearts of the audience as it has for many generations with unforgettable characters, lavish sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers including, "Be Our Guest," and of course, the beloved title song, "Beauty and the Beast." Ticket prices are \$93.95/\$77.90/\$67.20/\$60.78.

BBC Orchestra - One of Britain's most versatile ensembles, the BBC Concert Orchestra will conclude the 2014-2015 season at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at the Keith-Albee. The orchestra, under the command of Maestro Keith Lockhart (of Boston Pops fame), will engage Huntington with their magnetic force in classical music. Founded in 1952, BBC Orchestra is world-class, having performed at some of the world's finest venues. The show will feature young pianist, Charlie Albright, hailed as one of the most gifted musicians of this generation. Ticket prices are \$72.55/\$51.15.

More Theater:

"Cabaret" - The Marshall University Theatre Alliance presents "Cabaret" Feb. 18-21, and again Feb. 26-28, with a final matinee to be performed on March 1 at the Francis-Booth Experimental Theatre on the Marshall campus. Tickets are \$20 at the door and \$15 for Marshall faculty and for seniors. Students with an ID will be able to see the show for free. The February shows will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the March 1 matinee will start at 2 p.m. More information can be found at 304-696-2787.

"Valentines To My Hometown" - Presented by Contact Huntington and Marshall University Women's Studies Program, "Valentines To My Hometown," is a performance of original monologues, stories and poems on gender, sexuality and identity written by members of the Huntington community. It takes place at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 and at 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at B'Nai Sholom Congregation, 949 10th Ave., Huntington. Your donation of \$5 will benefit CONTACT Rape Crisis Center of Huntington. No reservations needed Doors open 30 minutes before performances. For more information or to purchase a block of seats, contact Liz Deal 304-523-3447, [advocate@contacthuntington.com](mailto:advocate@contacthuntington.com)



"Once On This Island Junior" - the Caribbean adaptation of the popular Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale "The Little Mermaid" will be presented by First Stage Theatre Company at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27-28 and March 6-7 and at 2 p.m. on Sundays, March 1 and 8. Special school performances will be on March 5. All shows are at the Renaissance Art Center, 900 8th Street Huntington. Tickets are \$12, and \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the ticket line 304-416-KIDS 5437). For more info [www.firststagetheatre.org](http://www.firststagetheatre.org).

"Bat Boy - The Musical" - The Shawnee State University Theatre Program brings the lurid tabloid tale of "Bat Boy: The Musical" at 7:30 p.m. February 25-28 in the Eloise Covert Smith Theater. Mature Themes, Discretion is Advised Tickets are \$12//Seniors and SSU faculty/staff \$10//SSU students \$3. Tickets and information are available 10-5 p.m. at the McKinley Box Office, 740-351-3600. Online through Ticketmaster at [www.ticketmaster.com/venue/41868](http://www.ticketmaster.com/venue/41868), or any TicketMaster outlet.

## Welcome to the discussion.

**Keep it Clean.** Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.

**PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CAPS LOCK.**

**Don't Threaten.** Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated.

**Be Truthful.** Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.

**Be Nice.** No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.

**Be Proactive.** Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.

**Share with Us.** We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.



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