

For Immediate Release

Intimate Musical *[title of show]* Comes to Willsboro Stage!

WILLSBORO, NEW YORK – The Willsboro Drama Club is thrilled to announce their 2017 musical, *[title of show]*. The Tony nominated show with music and lyrics by Jeff Bowen and a book by Hunter Bell, will be performed at the Willsboro Central School Auditorium for three performances under the direction of the award-winning duo of Derrick A. Hopkins and Jennifer Moore. Performances are March 31, 2017 and April 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. and April 2, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for seniors and students.

Jeff and Hunter, two struggling writers, hear about a new musical theatre festival. However, the deadline for submissions is a mere three weeks away. With nothing to lose, the pair decides to try to create something new with the help of their friends Susan, Heidi and Mary on the eighty-eights. With the cast in place, Jeff and Hunter begin a conversation about what to write about. Eventually, Jeff suggests they write about what to write about. They make a pact to write up until the festival's deadline and dream about the show changing their lives. *[title of show]*—taken from the space on the festival's application form which asks for the [title of show]—follows Hunter and Jeff and their friends on their journey through the gauntlet of creative self-expression. In the span of 90-minutes, they write and perform their show at the festival and learn lessons about themselves as people, friends, and artists. *[title of show]* is, above all, a love letter to the musical theatre—a uniquely American art form—and to the joy of collaboration.

Music Director, who also plays Mary (the pianist) claimed, “*[title of show]* is one of the funniest, most poignant, and most creative pieces of musical theater I've ever come across. This show perfectly captures the off-the-wall humor of the theater community but more importantly, it explores the creative process and how we must address our insecurities and fears so that we can make our most honest art.” She continued, “One of the songs suggests that ‘all you need is four chairs and a keyboard to make a great show,’ but in order to produce a great show you need far more than that: dedicated students, teachers, administration, and community all working together to breathe life into these opportunities for our students so that when these kids graduate, they have directly experienced the challenges of collaboration, the discipline of simply showing up on time and prepared, the vulnerability needed to try on a new way of being in the world through the characters they have been assigned and the pride of seeing something through to the end.” She concluded, “All of these skills translate to much broader life lessons through the arts education programming here at Willsboro.”

“One of the funniest shows I have ever seen on Broadway was *[title of show]*,” exclaimed director, Derrick A. Hopkins. “I had no idea what to expect walking into that theater, and I laughed, I cried, and as an aficionado of the American theatre, I walked away so completely satisfied.” He continued, “The show is a love letter to musical theatre. Being a theatre dork, to see an original show that appeals to both general audiences and theatre people is rare. At its heart, it is about finding your artistic voice and expression. It's a uniquely funny delight!” He concluded, “Tackling a small, four-person musical is a new adventure for Willsboro Drama Club and, as far as I know, has never been done in the region. The four student actors have to be ‘on’ for 90-minutes with no intermission. The music and acting demands are rigorous, but the student actors have worked hard and are thriving! Additionally, we have seven students working various aspects of technical theatre and are ready for the challenge. I cannot believe that I am able to bring this gem to the stage with this dedicated cast of student performers and student crew.”

Senior, Payton Gough, who plays Susan, claimed, “Being part of a four-person play is different than a regular play that contains over twenty people. This is a new experience for me because I am used to being in a production where it is a mixture of elementary and high school students. With *[title of show]* being my last high school production, I am so glad that I am working with three of my closest friends: Olivia Politi, Mat Longware, and Max Longware.”

“*[title of show]* is a hilarious musical that consists of four actors, four chairs, and a keyboard (with Mary, the pianist),” said Sophomore, Olivia Politi, who plays Heidi. “I absolutely love how small the cast is because we are all extremely close and work very well together.” She continued, “I think people should come to the show because its different and no other school in the area has done it before. The show can connect to people of all ages who deal with their quirks and their insecurities.” Olivia concluded, “This show has been a lot of work and it is finally coming along. I am so grateful to be a part of this wonderful cast and would not want anything any other way. I promise that this show is a must see and you will leave the auditorium with tears of laughter!”

Assistant Director, Annie-Laurie Lemieux stated, “Being a part of Willsboro Drama Club's *[title of show]* has been an amazing journey. It is always a great joy to be able to work with Jennifer Moore, Derrick Hopkins, and the talented students of the Willsboro Drama Club. These bright, funny, and passionate young men and women have reached new heights during the rehearsal process as they have discovered and developed their individual characters.” She concluded, “I feel privileged and extremely proud to be included in this production. Through learning, laughter, and friendship we have all come together to create a truly magical theatrical experience.”

All performances will be held at Willsboro Central School located on 18 Farrell Road in Willsboro. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more information, please email dhopkins@willsborocsd.org or call (518) 963-4456. *[title of show]* is rated PG for mild language and some suggestive humor that may not be appropriate for children 8 and under.

Contact Information:

Derrick A. Hopkins
(518) 572-4272
dhopkins@willsborocsd.org

[title of show] Cast List

Hunter, the book writer.....	Mat Longware
Jeff, the music writer	Max Longware
Heidi, the Broadway star	Olivia Politi
Susan, the funny one.....	Payton Gough
Mary, the pianist	Jennifer Moore

[title of show] Production Staff

Director / Choreographer.....	Derrick A. Hopkins
Music Director.....	Jennifer Moore
Assistant Director / Stage Manager.....	Annie-Laurie Lemieux
Set Builder	Junior Montville
Lighting	Makayla Anson
Runner	Kyle Jacques-Britton
Spot Light	Mallory Arnold
Spot Light	Mackenzie Martin
Stage Crew.....	Myah Green
Stage Crew.....	Zoe Mattioli
Stage Crew.....	Erinn Walker