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Cabaret

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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FIU THEATRE PRESENTS

CABARET

"IN HERE LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL"

DIRECTED BY PHILLIP M. CHURCH

MARCH 4-7 & 11-14, 2004
WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
MAINSTAGE THEATRE
MIAMI, FLORIDA
"Life is a cabaret old chum." So goes the oft-quoted phrase from the title song from the musical Cabaret. At times one wonders whether the reverse isn't perhaps closer to reality: "Cabaret is a life old chum." In Europe of the 20's and 30's one might well have compared life to a cabaret, whereas in the 21st Century one is tempted to draw the conclusion that "life is a reality TV Show, old chum." Ebb and Kander's Cabaret is as relevant to us today as it was when they first wrote the piece in the late sixties. As a rule, playwrights are not given to plucking arbitrary ideas out of the air and developing them for mass consumption — the playwright is an intimate observer of society, becoming the all-reflective messenger of the times, and when a production is draped in memorable music and pulsating dance numbers a playwright's message can either become obscured or it can be harnessed and enhanced with knowing insight. Living in the year 2004 it is hard not to make comparison between the characters that inhabit the stage world and those with whom we live out our reality. At this very moment in history the whole world is seized, consciously or subconsciously in a virtual state of fear and terror — and like those living in 30's Berlin who discovered means of fictional escape so society today attempts to escape an anxiety of an unimaginable future through fantasy. The Berliners had their cabarets and revue shows and we have our fantasy films, video games, reality TV and Money-Makes-the-World-Go-Around game shows. It is interesting to note how programs such as "Fear Factor" and "Survivor" have grown in popularity while the world becomes more and more unstable. It would seem that our human impulse prompts us to create illusions in which to seek safe havens and freedom. Yet, the fact remains that at some point the curtain must fall, the audience must disperse and the MC must return to his solitary single-room dwelling only to be confronted by the question of his true identity. Who or what is the MC? Is he merely a device to advance the action of the show? The MC is nothing without the actor/being beneath the character. As an adjunct to the greater theme of illusion and reality Cabaret is also a play about identity; identity that is lost or never found or more disturbingly, identity that is imposed from the outside, an identity easily conferred on those whose identity was nothing but an illusion. Like Cliff and Sally, Herr Schultz and Faulein Schneider and the multitude of characters that have people played throughout western civilization, the MC is merely the messages' messenger, continually mobile in his search for an honest identity or, at the very least, a confirmation of the actor-human being beneath the role. And in the end, once the makeup is removed and the costume hung up, it is he who must finally embrace his true identity.

Finally, on a more personal note, immense gratitude goes out to the show's two consummate guest professionals, musical director Elsie Augenblick and choreographer Ana Blanco. They brought to the process of this production unstinting wisdom and expertise, introducing many young people to a forbidding new genre of performance for the very first time. Thank you for your combined energy and commitment. And, as always, a dedication to PD for undiminished life-spirit!

Phillip M. Church
Director
Cabaret
Book by Joe Masteroff
Based on the play by John Van Druten and Stories by Christopher Isherwood
Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Director
Musical Director
Choreographer
Scenography
Costume Designer
Technical Director
Stage Manager
Sound Designer
Asst. Lighting Designer
Asst. Set Designer
Asst. Costume Designer
Dramaturg
Assistant Stage Managers
Dance Captain

Phillip M. Church
Elsie Augenblick
Ana L. Blanco
Craig A. Young
Heather Rae Miller
Celso Peruyera
Irima Reyes
Daniel Suarez
Fletcher McCune
Casper Machado
Courtney Just
Amanda Healy and Jonathan Gonzalez
Sarah Brohee

Setting:
Berlin, Germany 1930 and 1931

There will be two 10 minute intermissions.

As a courtesy to others, please set pagers to silent mode. Cellular phones and watch alarms should be deactivated. We thank you for your consideration. Enjoy the show!

Cabaret is produced with special arrangement with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

Cast

EMCEE .................................................. Ricky Waugh
CLIFF BRADSHAW ............................. Kristian Cardenas
SALLY BOWLES .................................. Carolyn Zeller
SCHNEIDER ..................................... LaVonne Canfield
SCHULTZ ........................................ Zee Garcia
ERNST .......................................... Vladimir Berrios
KOST .............................................. Lisa LaGrande
MAX ................................................. Tony V
VICTOR ............................................. Yecid Benavides
BOBBY ............................................ Aaron Mills
CHIL.D .......................................... Karl Urban

KIT KAT GIRLS .................. Kristy Webb, Marissa Diaz, Sarah Brohee
Elizabeth Ferrer, Kristina Bingham, Julia LaVault, Barbie Perez
CHORUS/Two Ladies .......................... Chrissie Fit
CHORUS/Two Ladies ......................... Cristina Suarez
GORILLA/CHORUS ............................. Minette Perez
MATRE DAME/CHORUS ....................... Jason Valdes
CUSTOMS OFFICER/CHORUS ............ Damion Rochester
SAILOR/CHORUS ................................. Hess Wesley
SAILOR/CHORUS ................................. R.icky Waugh
WAITER/CHORUS ............................... Karl Urban
S.A. OFFICER/CHORUS ......................... Jonathan Gonzalez

Technical Crew

Asst. Tech Director ....................... Austin Dorson
Shop Foreman ............................... Tim Ofril
Floor Crew ... Koleen Hawkins, Jason Carpenter
Kirsten Lindgren
Light Board Operator .................... Brenda McCune
Sound Board Operator ................... Maria Rovira
Scenic Artist ................................. Alexis Diamond
Props Master ................................. Mo Suarez
Asst. Props Run ......................... Roger Benavides
Casper Machado, Katie Perry
Asst. Electrician ............................ Alex Dominguez
Light Hang ................................. Juan Espinosa, Roxanne Gomez, Cyrina Fiallo, Daniel Gutierrez
Kirsten Lindgren, Frank Millan, Danielle R. Schuchman, Michelle Steele, Ramon Veunes, Kristy Webb
Costume Head ............................... Nan Suphariyanoonda
Makeup Design .............................. Kea McElfresh
Assistant Makeup ......................... Virginia Canizales, Nan Suphariyanoonda

Costume Run Crew ....................... Maria Areiza
Virginia Canizales, Juliette Dricoll, Danny Mont
Deanne Seavedra, Amber Wilson
House Prep ................................. Christina Aguilar
House Manager ............................. Christina Aguilar
Ushers .................................. Maritxell Carrero, Daniell-Schuchman,
Marketing .................................... Tony V, Mashaun Arnold
Vocal Coach ................................. Lesley Ann Timlick
Spot Operator .................. Gus Florentino
Kirsten Lindgren, Michelle Steele

Special Thanks to:
Austen Dorson, Tim Ofril, The Scenic and Costume Labs, Annie Clancy
The Coconut Grove Playhouse
Daniel Suarez, University of Miami,
Stage Craft Class
Department of Theatre Administration
Chair..........................................................Leroy Clark
Business Manager........................................Abe Cornejo
Administration.............................Mariana Murray, Nathalie Brenner
Box Office Manager.........................Rhonda Leaphart
Office Assistants.................................Jessica Barrera, Tony V
Scene Shop Assistants.................Fletcher McCune, Ramon Venues, Frank Millan,
Mark Thomas, Julio Alvarez
Costume Shop Assistants.....................Maritxell Carrero, Annie Clontz

Guest Faculty
ELSIE AUGENBLICK was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She moved to Florida in 1968. Mrs. Augenblick earned the Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Southern College and the Master of Music from The University of South Florida. She has worked for the Theatre and Dance Department at Florida International University as Vocal Coach and Choral Director for a variety of shows, including Fiddler on the Roof, and Company. Mrs. Augenblick recently acted as vocal coach/choreographer and played the role of Sister Robert Anne in the musical comedy Nunsense for Kendall Community Church of God in Miami. She has been an Adjunct Instructor for the Department of Theatre and Dance and the School of Music at FIU. Mrs. Augenblick is recognized as a soprano soloist, choral conductor, adjudicator, clinician and teacher throughout Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania. In addition to her teaching duties and performance career, she is a free-lance artist and in demand as a clinician/adjudicator for Music Festivals where she has the privilege to conduct workshops and adjudicate choirs, ensembles and soloists from throughout the United States.

ANA L. BLANCO is Associate Director of Miami Hispanic Ballet as well as the International Ballet Festival of Miami. She also serves as guest choreographer for the theatre departments at South Miami Magnet Middle and Elementary schools. Mrs. Blanco received her dance training from Pedro Pablo Pena, of the National Ballet of Cuba, Opera Ballet and also Musical Theatre of Havana. She has performed as soloist for Creation Ballet and Miami Hispanic Ballet and also toured with the Frankie Show. She is a musical theatre major from Florida State University, and is currently working on her B.A. at Barry University. Mrs. Blanco has been recognized and awarded for her work by ACCA Mrs. Blanco has appeared in numerous stage productions (A View From The Bridge, Company, Seesaw). Film experience includes the Spanish film “Amigos”.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR “BEAUTIFUL” ORCHESTRA!!

CONDUCTOR...............................Elsie Augenblick
PIANO..............................................Emmanuel Schvartzman
VIOLIN...........................................Sprite Crawford
TRUMPET.........................................Sam Lussier
TROMBONE.......................................Dave Dickey
WOODWIND......................................Rob Smiley
WOODWIND......................................Rocky Yera
GUITAR...........................................Cris Rivera
BASS.............................................Mike Bordelon
PERCUSSION..............................Rodolfo Zuniga

BEFORE IT HITS HOME
By Cheryl West
Directed by Lesley Ann Timlick

AIDS & African Americans
April 8-11 and 15-18

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A Unisex Salon

Wishes the cast and crew of Cabaret the very best!

9901 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33173
Phone: (305)412-5515
Fax: (305)412-1608