



The University of Texas at Austin

Theatre and Dance

College of Fine Arts

**For immediate release:**

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**Images available:**

<https://uttad.smugmug.com/Theatre-and-Dance-Media/The-Drowsy-Chaperone/>

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE**  
**PRESENTS**  
**THE TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL**  
***THE DROWSY CHAPERONE***  
**DECEMBER 6-10, 2017**  
**AT THE B. IDEN PAYNE THEATRE**

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents the musical comedy gem *The Drowsy Chaperone* directed by Nick Mayo, December 6-10, 2017 at the B. Iden Payne Theatre. With book by Bob Martin and Don McKellar and music and lyrics by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison, *The Drowsy Chaperone* offers a delightful tribute to the Jazz Age musicals.

As the musical opens, the audience is introduced to a theatre fan playing his favorite cast album, the fictitious 1928 hit *The Drowsy Chaperone*, on his turntable. As he listens to the record, the characters come to life in his apartment and mayhem ensues. Hailed by *New York Magazine* as "the perfect Broadway musical," the Tony Award-winner is a masterful meta-musical, poking fun at all the tropes that characterize the musical theatre genre.

"The musicals that emerged in the 1920's introduced audiences to songwriters Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, George and Ira Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein and Cole Porter. The productions during this period didn't depend heavily on

plot; instead, characters and plot lines were created for and by the performers, many of whom began their careers in Vaudeville. The genre of musical comedy evolved to showcase performers who then performed an act or characterization that they specialized in. The same can be said for *The Drowsy Chaperone*,” Nick Mayo, the production’s director shares. “*The Drowsy Chaperone* is a fantastical exercise in escapism. The unconditional adoration it gives to the musical theatre art form is a tonic for a culture well-versed in cynicism and turmoil. There is a relief that comes from this lack of complexity; providing comfort in a time of despair and giving hope that our cure may only be a show tune away.”

A graduate of the Juilliard School (Group 35), Mayo has performed in several Broadway productions over the past decade including *The Ritz*, *South Pacific* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He has taught classes, workshops and served as a guest instructor at Interlochen Arts Academy, The Juilliard School, The Long Center for Performing Arts, North East School of the Arts in San Antonio, The Kennedy Center Summer Educational programming and The Shubert Organization educational outreach. Mayo is head of acting for the Texas Arts Project and the associate producer of Summer Stock Austin. As a director, he won the 2016 Austin Critics' Table Award for Best Musical for *She Loves Me* at St. Edward's University.

*The Drowsy Chaperone* features an all-star cast of University of Texas at Austin students, including Scott Shipman (Man in Chair), Sydney Frank (Ms. Tottendale), J. Dylan Gibson (Underling), Connor Barr (Robert), Ryland Kaiser (George), Morris Jude Martinez (Feldzieg), Tori Robertson (Kitty), Caroline Kinnamore (Gangster 1), Leslie Ann Leal (Gangster 2), Matthew Rogers (Aldolpho), Lauren DeFilippo (Janet), Emily McIntyre (Drowsy Chaperone), Toni Lorene Baker (Trix), Ryan Alvarado (Superintendent) and ensemble members Susannah Crowell, Claire Davis and Grayson Rosato.

The production’s creative team includes Nick Mayo (Director), Natasha Davison (Choreographer), Jason Huerta (Technical Director), Dack Justiz (Stage Manager), Lyn Koenning (Music Director), Carolina Perez (Sound Designer), Barbara Pope (Costume Designer), Austin Shirley (Lighting Designer, Production Manager) and Lino Toyos (Scenic Designer).

For more information on *The Drowsy Chaperone*, please visit [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org)

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

**December 6-10, 2017 - The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *The Drowsy Chaperone* at B. Iden Payne Theatre** (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: [theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking](http://theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking)

Performance times are December 6 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview); December 7-10 at 7:30 p.m. and December 9-10 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets for performances on December 7-10 (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and all Texas Box Office outlets, online [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org), or

by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. Tickets for the preview performance on December 6 (\$10 adult, \$5 student) are available at the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and F. Loren Winship Building Box Office. Box Office locations and hours:  
[theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing](http://theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing)

### **ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE**

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

### **ALSO THIS SEASON**

*Anon(ymous)*

By Naomi Iizuka

October 4-15, 2017

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

*Fall For Dance*

November 7-12, 2017

*The Crucible*

By Arthur Miller

November 8-19, 2017

*ENRON*

By Lucy Prebble

February 21-March 4, 2018

Dance Repertory Theatre presents

*Transcendence*

March 28-April 8, 2018

UTNT (UT New Theatre)

April 12-22, 2018

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