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Chicago flyer- but take out ticket prices and our contact numbers

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A Note From the Director

The RRCA Music Theater Company has only been in existence for a short time. It was the brainchild of our Executive Director Mike Trapp. One of Mike's original goals was to give Monroe an all-locally cast production of a show for which he has a great fondness. That show is CHICAGO. Mike has excellent taste.

CHICAGO is one of the truly great musicals, nearly flawless in concept, book, score and execution. Even Hollywood couldn't ruin this one: witness the Academy Award for Best Picture that went to CHICAGO in 2002. We are so excited to be presenting this show to you. Kellie Lajiness, Mark Felder, and I have worked extremely close on this one. The collaboration has been intense, with each of us overlapping and contributing to the creative aspects of this show. Our goal was to end up with a seamless, smooth, high-quality production and I think we have achieved it. You will marvel at our talented cast and the fact that all these performers are your friends and neighbors here in our community. Yes, that's your son's teacher up there, and I think that's your hairdresser! And so many more.

I want to publicly thank my cast for being so hard-working and dedicated. It was an extra long and intense rehearsal period. I'm so impressed with the choreography that Kellie has created (and recreated) on our cast. It is nothing less than Broadway caliber. And Mark Felder is conducting a fabulously professional group of musicians. See if you don't agree that this band is HOT!

This show has truly been the work of many people, and that is the case with any of our productions. This brings me to the next thing I want you to know. To paraphrase an old adage, it takes a village to put on a musical, and we appreciate all the community support. Some of our illustrious citizens have agreed to take part on stage in guest appearances as the Judge in our courtroom scene, and we are grateful to them. But my point in telling you all this is that we here at the RRCA can always use more volunteers. Surely there is something you could do to join in on all this fun! You don't have to be a star to be in our show, as they say. Carpenters, builders, seamstresses, or just people with the willingness to donate their time and effort (yes, it does take effort, I won't lie) to come together and create. Don't worry if you don't know what you're good at, we can teach you. Monroe needs the RRCA to succeed, you know. It is a reflection of the values of this community that we have fine arts in our lives. And while we're at it, let's take pride in them and make them as fine as arts can possibly be. We have the talent. I think a lot of it is on display tonight. So please come and join us and really make it YOUR River Raisin Centre for the Arts.

Finally, thank you for supporting us with your attendance tonight. We would have no reason to do any of this if it wasn't for you. Our Executive Director Mike Trapp deserves special mention as does our dedicated Board of Directors for the superhuman effort it takes to make these things happen. Thanks to Calley Duffey, Amy Miller, and our staff and volunteers for always being there to do what needs to be done.

John Bacarella (a little long winded this time out)

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Chicago, Illinois. The late 1920's

Act I

Scene 1: Chicago, IL

All that Jazz

Velma and Company

Scene 2: The bedroom of Roxie Hart

Funny Honey

Roxie

Scene 3: Cook County Jail

Cell Block Tango

Velma and the Girls

Scene 4: Cook County Jail
When Your Good to Mama

Matron

Scene 5: The Jail

Scene 6: Visitor's Area
Tap Dance

Roxie, Amos, Annie

Scene 7: Limbo
All I Care About

Billy and the Girls

Scene 8: Billy's Office
A Little Bit of Good
We Both Reached for the Gun

Mary Sunshine
Billy Roxie Mary Sunshine and Company

Scene 9: Limbo
Roxie

Roxie and the Boys

Scene 10: In the Jail

Scene 11: Limbo and Roxie's Cell
I Can't Do It Alone

Velma

Scene 12: Limbo and a Bedroom somewhere in Chicago
Chicago After Midnight

The Band

Scene 13: The Jail
My Own Best Friend

Roxie and Velma

Act II

Scene 1: The Jail
I Know a Girl
Me and My Baby

Velma
Roxie and Boys

Scene 2: Limbo
Mister Cellophane

Amos

Scene 3: The Jail
When Velma Takes the Stand

Velma and Boys

Scene 4: The Anteroom of the Courthouse

Scene 5: The Anteroom of the Courthouse, March 9th
Razzle Dazzle

Billy and Company

Scene 6: The Courtroom

Scene 7: A Room in the Jail
Class

Matron and Velma

Scene 8: The Courtroom

Scene 9: The Courtroom
Nowadays

Roxie

Nowadays
RSVP
Keep it Hot

Roxie and Velma
Roxie and Velma
Roxie and Velma

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The Cast

In order of appearance

Velma Kelly
Roxie Hart
Fred Casely
Sergeant Fogarty
Amos Hart
Liz
Annie/Tap Dancer
June
Hunyak
Mona
Martin Harrison
Matron
Billy Flynn
Tailor/featured dancer
Mary Sunshine
Go To Hell Kitty
Harry/Doctor
Aaron
The Judge
The Jury
Court Clerk

Carolyn Sohoza
Michelle Sontag
David Ross
Anthony Ferrer
Brad Miller
Samantha Martin
Phyllis McCormick
Michelle McCaffrey
Melissa Moore
Julie Merz
Robert Chester
Tracey Bomia
Tim Middleton
Zack Morgan
J. Self
Laura Borrelli
Jason Angel
Anthony R. Ferrer
Celebrity Guests
Bill McCloskey
Mary Timko

Reporters and Ensemble

Kayla Corollo
Alison Drougel
Tracy Glover

Laura Ashley Greer
Cheryl Lohmeyer
Ellen Weaver

Orchestra

Music Director/Conductor
Violin
Reeds

Trumpets

Trombones

Banjo, Guitar, Mandolin
Keyboards

Bass
Drums

Mark B. Felder
Ann Felder
Paul DeVee
Russ Carpenter
Hank Lehrer
Keith Powell
Bob McMillan
Mike Miller
David Bachar
Philip Eversden
Josh Glover
Elizabeth Stewart
Chris Morelli
Steve Whitford

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Credits

Set building

Mark Felder, Mike Trapp, Ed and Carolyn Sohoza, Brad Martin, Robert Chester, Paul Merz, Jim and Holly Self, Tim and Kellie Lajiness, Tim Middleton, Phyllis and Danny McCormick, Kylie Parks, Kristie Bowman, Michelle Sontag, and so many of our cast.

Stage Crew

Cameron Eggly, Kylie Parks, Kristie Bowman, Craig

Spotlight

Susan Gall, Joanna Bacarella

Sound

Kelly King and Derek Arnold

Props

Joette Zochowski

Special Thanks to Joe Bellino and Broadway Market, Ed Sohoza, Sauer's Antiques

½ page nutcracker ad (use flyer)

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John Bacarella (*Director*)

In the five short years that John's been back in Monroe, he's been able to make his annoying presence felt in the creative community. He cannot help but stick his nose in wherever there is a theatrical production that will tolerate his highly overrated opinions and futile efforts in tastemaking. He has managed NOT to alienate everyone that he works with, but doesn't know how much longer his luck will hold out. His family still speaks to him (on occasion) and still leaves the door unlocked when he comes home at midnight. Some of his past endeavors include: 42nd Street, JC Superstar, and Urinetown with the RRCA Music Theater, shows with the QuagMeyer players at MCCC, including the upcoming Fantasticks in May, Directing shows for SMCC and the Summer Youth Theater here at the RRCA. He thanks you all for the opportunity (and the ulcer!)

Kellie M. Lajiness (*Choreographer*)

Kellie shares her life with her husband Tim and three children. An advocate for providing high quality dance training to the community, Kellie celebrates her 12th Season as Dance Director for the RRCA Dance Academy where she instructs and attends to the artistic and administrative needs of the school and Repertory Performance Company. She also teaches dance technique courses and dance history at the Monroe County Community College, conducts special workshops for dance exploration in many local schools, and often co-produces, directs and choreographs musicals and other venues through the RRCA. Kellie is a critically acclaimed and well traveled featured performer, choreographer, and instructor, prolifically experienced in concert dance, studio work, competitive ballroom dance and musical theatre. Kellie holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance from Western Michigan University where she received the Presidential Scholar Award and was a member of the faculty. She obtained her Masters in Dance from The Ohio State University with a concentration in choreography and performance. Kellie is a Regional Representative for the Michigan Dance Council and a member of Cecchetti Council of America. She was recently recognized by the MCISD Creative Expressions for her work in mentorship programs. Kellie is in her third season as Resident Choreographer for the River Raisin Music Theatre Company. She has been thrilled to choreograph "Chicago" and has enjoyed researching the movement

styles of the outstanding Bob. Fosse. She thanks the cast and creative team members for entrusting her with their time and talents to help provide a high quality production.

Mark B. Felder (*musical director*)

Mark comes to the RRCA with a history of excellence and a background of directing over one-hundred musicals and performing in countless others. He has directed for Monroe Community Players, Monroe Repertory Theater, Huron Civic Theater, SMCC Alumni Theater as well as Southgate and Wyandotte Community Theaters. He also served as musical director at Crosswell Opera House for twelve years. You saw him last as music director for the RRCA's production of "Anything Goes" and Monroe Community Players' production of "Oliver". In 1991 Mark was given the opportunity to become music director for the Chicago portion of the National Tour of "Into The Woods". For that he earned the "Obie" award for best Chicago musical director and was nominated for the prestigious "Jeff" award for best music director. On the local scene Mark can regularly be seen performing with the Johnny Knorr Orchestra. He recently retired as band director at Jefferson High School, but can still be seen directing the Monroe College-Community Band. In his spare time (?) he teaches education classes at MC3 and runs his own Recording Studio, "Vivo Productions". He will next be seen as music and production director for RRCA's spring production of "Gypsy". See you then.

Jason Angel (Harry/Doctor/chorus) Jason is a local hair stylist at 959 Hair Design, traveling nationally for hair shows. This is Jason's first show at the RRCA, although he feels right at home on the stage! He looks forward to all the future shows and roles to come! Maybe stardom!

Tracey Bomia (Matron Mama Morton) Tracey lives, works, and now "plays" in Monroe. This is the first show she has done in many years, but it won't be her last! A lot of work went into this role and she appreciates the love and support of family and friends.

Laura Borrelli (Go to Hell Kitty/chorus) Although this is Laura's first show at the RRCA, she has been involved with many groups. Some of her favorite roles include Babette in "Beauty and the Beast" and Tessie Tura in "Gypsy". When she's not rehearsing, Laura is busy planning her wedding for next October!

Kayla Carollo (reporter/chorus) Kayla is 19 and a local dance instructor, performing since childhood. She is a student at Monroe County Community College, focusing her studies on business and dance as she inspires to have her own studio. She appreciates the opportunity to join the cast of "Chicago" for her first theatrical role.

Robert Chester (Martin Harrison/chorus) Robert is 31 and originally from Massachusetts. He moved to Monroe, MI in May of 2006. He is grateful to be cast in his first real stage performance. He hopes to further his acting career here at the RRCA!

Alison Drougel (reporter/chorus) Alison is best known for her lead roles as Belle in "Beauty and the Beast" and Nellie in "South Pacific" with Monroe Community Players. Vocally trained in opera, jazz and musical theatre at Michigan State University, Alison teaches private voice lessons. She has a six month old son and three year old daughter.

Anthony R. Ferrer (Sergeant Fogarty/Aaron/chorus) This is Anthony's 10th show and his third here with the RRCA. His favorite roles include Mushnik in "Little Shop of Horrors" and Officer Barrel in "Urinetown". He thanks God, his family and the cast!

Tracy Ann Glover (reporter/chorus) This is Tracy's third show at the RRCA. Tracy is a former choir director, currently teaches private voice and is on staff for the RRCA's Summer Youth Theatre Camp. She has appeared in numerous shows including "Tommy", "Into the Woods" and "Joseph".

Laura Ashley Greer (reporter/chorus) Laura is a delighted new addition to the RRCA stage but is no stranger at Mason High School or the Stranahan Theatre of Toledo, OH. Her favorite roles include Rizzo in "Grease" and Sarah Brown in "Guys and Dolls".

Cheryl Lohmeyer (reporter/chorus) This is Cheryl's first stage production, she has plenty of experience on "stage" in what Charles Dickens's dubbed "The Grand Theatre," the courtroom. A trial attorney, Cheryl received her BA from U of M and Juri's Doctorate from the University of Toledo. Thanks to Loren and her children.

Brad Miller (Amos) Brad is a student at Wayne County Community College, entering their nursing program this fall. A musical theatre performer since age 11, Brad plans to continue until death! His first RRCA show was "Aida". He looks forward to more!

Melissa Moore (Hunyak/dancer) Melissa received a BA in Dance performance from Western Michigan University. Her numerous credits include "Who Cares?," "The Nutcracker", "Coppelia", "42nd Street" and "JC Superstar". She instructs for the RRCA Dance Academy and is Assistant Director of the River Raisin Ballet. She thanks Shane!

Samantha Martin (Liz/dancer) Sam is a student at Monroe High School, and has been dancing since age 3. She was selected and recently attended the New York City Rockette's Summer Intensive. Previous shows include "42nd Street", "Anything Goes" and "Aida". The role of "Liz" has been her favorite!

Michelle McCaffrey (June/dancer) Michelle is an occupational therapist. She's been dancing since college and at the RRCA for 10 years. Her musical theatre experiences include "42nd Street", and "Anything Goes". She thanks her kids for their understanding.

William E. McClosky (Jury) Bill has been involved in community theatre for ...hmm.. 40 years! He is old. But he has fun working with all these talented people. Enjoy the show! Bill is a professor of English at the Monroe County Community College.

Phyllis McCormick (Liz/Tap soloist/chorus) Phyllis has been dancing FOREVER and has performed in "42nd Street", "Jesus Christ Superstar", "Anything Goes" and "The Nutcracker". She has three grown children and husband Dan. Thanks mom and dad for the dance lessons!

Julie Merz (Mona/dancer) Julie received her Masters in Social Work from Wayne State University. This is Julie's first musical theatre performance with the RRCA. A former soloist of the Monroe Ballet Co. she currently dances with the River Raisin Ballet and serves as rehearsal assistant. Thanks Melissa!

Tim Middleton (Billy Flynn) Tim's first lead role at the RRCA was "Joseph" in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, 1996. His many past credits include MCP's Sky Masterson in "Guy's and Dolls", Rug in "Beauty and the Beast" and "Young McDuff" in "Macbeth". Thanks to friends, family and Sean. Blood, sweat and tears went into this show! Enjoy!

Zack Morgan (tailor/featured dancer) Zack Morgan is a senior attending Jefferson High School. Many describe him as outgoing and entertaining. This is his first show with the RRCA and has enjoyed being a part of this amazing cast.

David Ross Jr. (Fred Casely/chorus) Newcomer, David has performed in local theatre since grade school. Favorite roles include Pharaoh in "Joseph" and Sid Sorokin in "The Pajama Game". He happily commuted from Lincoln Park to work with this cast!

J. Self (Mary Sunshine) Underwire! Heels! Tights! The things a gal has to do to get a role these days! Oh well, weekends are never fun without a little dress-up. This is currently my wildest show to date!

Michelle Sontag (Roxie Hart) Michelle returns to the RRCA playing a role that is her greatest honor to date, Roxie! Past lead roles include Evita in "Evita, Anita in West Side Story, Rosie in "Bye Bye Birdie" and Lola in "Damn Yankees". To Dave "I Luv' ya honey, I luv' ya! This one is for you mom!

Carolyn Sohoza (Velma Kelly) This is Carolyn's first role with the RRCA, and is by far her favorite! Other roles include Poppy in "Noises Off", the Enchantress/Ensemble in "Beauty and the Beast" and ensemble in "Aida" and "Fiddler on the Roof". She thanks her family for their love encouragement and support.

Mary A. Timko (Court Clerk/chorus) Mary has played in numerous productions in a variety of roles! Among her favorites are Dorine in "Tartuffe" and Ma Strong in "Urinetown". Much love to her husband Dave and their four young children.

Ellen Weaver (reporter/chorus) Ellen is a Senior at Monroe High School and has been involved in school theatre programs and the RRCA's Summer Youth Theatre since 6th grade! She is thrilled to be involved with her first adult production.