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SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMS 'GUYS AND DOLLS, JR.' MARCH 2

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS – A cast of 53 students will perform the legendary Broadway musical, “Guys and Dolls, Jr.” at South Middle School, 400 S. Highland Ave., Arlington Heights, on March 2 and 3.

“It’s such a classic, so well loved and one of my all-time favorite shows,” said director Anna Lange, a seasoned Chicago actress who has performed and taught at Colorado’s Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre before joining South Middle School in 2016. “It’s zany, silly and full of heart, it’s just a fun show and kids are figuring that out, too.”

Guys and Dolls, Jr. is an adaptation of the musical that ran for 1,200 performances when it opened on Broadway in 1950 and won numerous Tony Awards, including Best Musical. According to Music Theatre International, this “perfect musical” is an oddball romantic comedy set in Damon Runyon’s mythical New York City featuring gamblers, nightclub performers and a missionary all interwoven and singing such musical classics as “Luck Be A Lady” and “Bushel and a Peck.”

Students featured in the leads include Libby Davenport as Nicely-Nicely Johnson; Charlie Dahlgren as Benny Southstreet, Alex Brice as Rusty Charlie; Luiza Zanon as Sarah Brown; Tommy DeMaria as Nathan Detroit; Lucia Montgomery as Miss Adelaide and Chris Little as Sky Masterson.

A total of 90 students are involved in the cast and crew under the direction of Lange, co-director Rosanna Woldman, musical director Kathryn Garibaldi, assistant director Kay Zimmanck, and choreographer Stephanie Hansen.

“I think we’re really lucky at South to have enthusiasm and dedication of our kids, and their willingness to perform especially at this age, blows my mind,” said Lange, also acknowledging the support of the parent community. “It’s hard enough to be a middle schooler in middle school, let alone play zany characters and perform in front of their friends, but they put on great shows.”

The performances are March 2 at 7 p.m., March 3 at 2 p.m. and March 3 at 7 p.m. at South Middle School, 400 S. Highland Ave., Arlington Heights. Tickets are \$8 and available at <https://crapshooters.brownpapertickets.com>