

Love Affair with 'The Drowsy Chaperone'

Written by Barbara K. Clark

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How many times have you attended a show expecting it to be about the title and by the time you left the theatre you, were still trying to figure out what the title had to do with the play at all? I have always been intrigued by the titles of Broadway plays. This was my thought when I first heard of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, May River Theatre's 16th season opening show.

Drowsy, the winner of 5 Tony Awards and 7 Drama Desk awards, has all the elements of a hilarious musical farce. It is a play within a play, crammed full of every cliché, gag and gimmick from the golden age of musicals.

The idea for the play was originally hatched when several friends created a spoof of old musicals for a party in honor of Bob Martin, one of the show's writers, and a friend, Janet Van De Graff. Don McKellar also collaborated on the writing and the music and lyrics are by Lisa Lambert and Greg Morrison.

Sitting in the director's seat is Travis Hornsby, director of last season's *Young Frankenstein*.

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