

## THEATER

## Players' Guild "Music Man" marches to captivating beat

Players Guild of Dearborn presents "The Music Man," at the playhouse 21730 Madison Avenue. 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through May 16; 2:30 p.m. Sundays through May 17 (NOTE: Matinee on May 3 is sold out). Tickets: \$12; (313) 561-TKTS.  
BY TAMI TABACCI  
SPECIAL WRITER

Now shining on the Players Guild of Dearborn's stage is Meredith Wilson's award-winning musical, "The Music Man," the enchanting American classic love story that scooped up multiple Tony Awards in 1958.

Not only is the show filled with beautiful love songs and rousing dance numbers, but it's a timeless lesson about bad being reformed by love. (Also known as "When love hits a con man, ya got trouble!")

Harry Hill is not your typical traveling salesman. He burst into Iowa warning the people of River City that trouble is headed their way due to the indoctrination of the new town pool table.



**Musical:** "I'll be watching you, Professor Hill," Marian Paroo (Jennifer Clark) tells Harold Hill (Joe Donovan) in the Players Guild of Dearborn's production of "The Music Man."

He cons the town folk into believing that the only way to sway their children toward good is to form a marching band.

First, they need to buy instruments (which he so conveniently sells) and then he will teach them to play when the instruments arrive.

The plan, of course is to skip town with the loot before they find out he can't deliver on what he promises. But Harry is sidetracked when he falls for Marian.

Director Lisa Andres deserves a hand for this tremendous undertaking. Not only has she found an enormous cast that can all sing, act and dance, but she has fit them all on stage at the same time. (There are about 50 actors in the musical.)

One can only imagine the chaos backstage, but the show was absent of any backstage clamor.

Starring as the quick-talking Harry Hill is a well-recognized face at the Guild, Joe Donovan. He fills the stage with his charming "The Sadder But Wiser Girl," and the breathy "Marian, the Librarian."

Jennifer Clark stars as Marian. Audiences will find her entrancing, especially when she

sings "Till There Was You."

Hitting the high notes is no problem for Clark. She breezes through favorites such as "Goodnight My Someone" and "Will I Ever Tell You?"

The young actors at the Guild are talented and promising. Middle-school student Paul Luoma plays Marian's troubled brother. His portrayal shows that great things lie ahead for him.

Brooke Andres and Ryan Brown are adorable as the forbidden teen lovers, Zaneeta and Tommy. Caitlin Donovan is devilishly sweet as Amariyllis.

And all of the teens deserve a hand in Valerie Mould's impressive choreography in "Shipooi."

Like most other Guild productions, the sets and costumes were very well done. Floyd and Clemence Bell used particularly creative use of scenery in the love scene on the bridge.

Amy Purrenhage and Kim Donovan's costumes were a handful. With more than four dozen cast members, there were undoubtedly some sore hands after putting the splendid frocks together.

Considering the many wonderful performances in "The Music Man," there isn't enough room to list all the outstanding performances.

The best advice is to get your tickets early.

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