



UUPFAD PRESENTS:

CHICAGO

**BOOK BY FRED EBB & BOB FOSSE
MUSIC BY JOHN KANDER**

**BASED ON THE PLAY BY
MAURINE DALLAS WATKINS**

**SCRIPT ADAPTATION BY
DAVID THOMPSON**

**DIRECTED BY
RACHEL M.E. WOLFE**

**MUSIC DIRECTED BY
LYNNE FERRARA**

**CHOREOGRAPHY BY
SOPHIA HARTNETT**

**APRIL 7TH-9TH @ 7:30PM
APRIL 10TH @ 2:00PM**

**CHICAGO IS PRESENTED
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
CONCORD THEATRICALS**

WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

Utica University Performing & Fine Arts Department Presents

CHICAGO

BOOK	MUSIC	LYRICS
Fred Ebb	John	Fred
Bob Fosse	Kander	Ebb

Based on the play by Maurine Dallas Watkins
Script Adaptation by David Thompson

Direction	Music Direction	Choreography
Rachel Wolfe	Lynne Ferarra	Sophia Hartnett
Stage Management	Set Design	Lighting Design
Jessilyn Pereira	Laura Salvaggio	Michael Diedrich
Sound Design	Graphic Design	Costume Design
Michael Diedrich	Hannah DeStefano	Kristin Palazolli
Props Master	Technical Director	Asst. Management
Gianna Weiss	Alec Pease	Kimberly Palencia
Asst. Management	Asst. Management	Lightboard Operator
Connor Canell	Kevin Chambers	Kingsley Pryztula
Dramaturgy	Special Crew	Running Crew
Anabella Rossi	Reece Bernard	Nikole Reda & Alyssa Sargent

Building & Painting Crew

Jordan Constantine, Anabella Rossi, Reece Bernard, Jessilyn Pereira, Gabriella Hudziak, Isabella Hudziak, Charles Buckley, Kim Morton, Saleena Lopez, Kim Palencia, Sameen Shaikh, Alyssa Sargent, Patrick Hampe, Bryan Pablo, Adam Liebers, Holly Cifonelli, Sameen Shaikh, Phillip McCall, Orion Rodriguez

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CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES...

production. She has been SM for several shows including "Peter and the Starcatcher," "War of the Worlds," "She Kills Monsters," and "Trifles." She's also acted in "Sister Act," "Bring It On," "Chicago," "The Addams Family," and "Something Rotten." When she's not working on a theatre production, she is singing, reading, or spending time with her loved ones. She'd like to thank all of her friends who helped her through the semester so far and become a better person. She wishes the whole cast and crew a great show!

CONNOR CANELL

Assistant Stage Management

Connor is a sophomore at Utica University pursuing a degree in Wellness and Adventure Education, Health/PE. Connor has been privileged to be cast in several productions of Missoula Children's Theatre, North Country Players and high school musicals. The roles he most enjoyed playing were Oliver Warbucks in "Annie" and Amos Calloway in "Big Fish." Connor not only loves being involved in musical productions, but thoroughly enjoys attending them as well. He would like to thank God, his family and friends for their support, along with Utica University's Drama Department for this opportunity.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SHOW!

Please consider supporting our theatre students in their club show of "Almost, Maine" on April 28th-30th!
Contact jdjones@utica.edu for info!



CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES...

ballroom, and hip hop. Sophia is the Head Choreographer for the Utica Dance Team at Utica University. She is also a Student Ambassador and Orientation Mentor for the University. This is Sophia's second year as head choreographer for the Utica University Theatre. She has absolutely loved working with the cast and cannot wait to see everyone shine on stage.

RACHEL M. E. WOLFE

Direction

Wolfe is an Assistant Professor of Theatre here at Utica University, where she teaches acting, directing, play analysis, and theatre history. Her professional work as a director and dramaturg has been seen on stages in New York, California, and Seattle, WA. At Utica, she has directed "Arcadia," "Ghost Stories at Yotsuya," "War of the Worlds," and "Trifles." "Chicago" is her first foray into directing musical theatre, for which she begs your indulgence.

LYNNE FERRARA

Musical Direction

a native of Central New York, holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education (vocal concentration) from The College of

Saint Rose and a Master's degree in Vocal Performance from New Jersey City University. Prior to teaching at Utica College, she was an Adjunct Music Instructor and the College Now music faculty liaison at Herkimer College. Recently, Ms. Ferrara made her operatic debut in a concert collaboration project with Bronx Opera as Papagena from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

ANABELLA ROSSI

Dramaturgy

Anabella Rossi is an English major, a senior, and a person who researches trivial facts for fun. She became involved in theatre her senior year of high school, and only three years later found herself directing a one-act play at Utica University, on top of doing dramaturg work. She added a Theatre minor to her degree only last semester after a suggestion from Dr. Rachel Wolfe and has been enjoying it immensely.

JESSILYN PEREIRA

Stage Management

Jessilyn is a sophomore who is the stage manager of this

DIRECTOR'S NOTES...

Chicago is a big, flashy musical that uses literal performance to comment on the very serious topic of performative justice. In the world of the play, characters who are selfish, conniving, and amoral routinely come out on top by giving performances: performances of innocence, performances of remorse, and of course, distracting song-and-dance routines. Nor is it a coincidence that the styles of performance they employ are classic Americana: vaudeville, ventriloquism, stage magic, burlesque. All of this performativity comments on the relative disregard for truth inherent in the notoriously corrupt criminal justice system of prohibition-era Chicago—and by extension, the American criminal justice system as a whole.

I wish that *Chicago* could stand alone as a simple period piece on the mob-run courts of the 1920s, but unfortunately, its relevance continues well into the present. Our current criminal justice system disproportionately arrests, convicts, and incarcerates Black Americans, acquits the cops who murder them extrajudicially, denies appeal to inmates proved to be innocent after the fact of their initial trial, and—since the suspension of habeas corpus by the Patriot Act of 2006—may hold and torture people indefinitely without a trial at all. In America today, there are concentration camps where legal migrants seeking refugee status in the U.S. are held in isolation from their families for staggering lengths of time while they await the chance to perform their worthiness for a judge. All of these are corrupt practices that base decisions on the appearance of things rather than the truth.

Our production of *Chicago*, flashy and distracting as it is, aims to draw attention to the human cost of performative justice by highlighting moments of reality that break through the big floor shows put on by the main characters. As you watch our show this evening, pay attention to the minor characters: the unseen, the unheard, the innocent, the victims. Their stories are just as important—perhaps moreso.



DRAMATURG'S NOTES...

With the passing of the Volstead Act came a steady increase in homicides in the United States. Unsurprisingly, the two real-life women who were the basis of Roxy Hart and Velma Kelly were intoxicated when they shot and killed their partners. Maurine Dallas Watkins, Chicago's playwright, based the story off of the trials she covered in 1924 as a reporter for the Chicago Tribune. Her proximity to the women gave her clear insight into their guilt— despite them being acquitted, Watkins personally believed both women were guilty.

Beulah Sheriff Annan, the basis of Roxie Hart, was 24 when she was arrested for the murder of Harry Kalstedt, her lover. According to her initial story, Beulah and Kalstedt had been drinking when an argument started. They both reached for Kalstedt's gun. Beulah reached it first. She played a foxtrot record, for four hours while watching Kalstedt die, before calling her husband Albert and claiming she had shot a man who tried to sleep with her. Beulah's story changed four times over the few months she was in jail. Prosecutors surmised that Kalstedt likely was going to leave Beulah, who shot him in a jealous rage.

Velma Kelly was based on Belva Gaertner, a three-time divorced cabaret singer. In 1924, Gaertner shot and killed her lover, Walter Law. He was found the next day in her car next to a bottle of gin and a gun. Police found Gaertner in her apartment, hungover and covered in bloody clothes, claiming she did not remember what had transpired. One of Law's co-workers testified that Gaertner was a possessive lover who had threatened Law with a knife when he tried to leave her, and Law had believed she would kill him one day. Gaertner's defense for the trial was that Law committed suicide. She was acquitted three months after the trial began.

Watkins' use of real people did not stop at the two women: Mary Sunshine was written as a satire of Watkins' rival reporters, most of whom believed the women to be innocent of their crimes. Billy Flynn is a combination of the two defense attorneys who represented Beulah Sheriff Annan and Belva Gaertner. Amos Hart is based on the real-life Albert Annan, who spent all of his money attempting to free his wife from jail; Beulah's first act upon release was to publicly announce that she was leaving her husband.

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES...

is excited to get back on the stage for her second musical and she hopes you enjoy the show!

GABRIELLE KOENIG

Mona/Mary Sunshine US

Gabrielle Eden Koenig is a current highschool junior who is thrilled to perform in Utica University's production of "Chicago". This is her first on stage role as a convicted killer in a world of Jazz. Her previous theater experience includes "Trifles" (2021), "Guys and Dolls" (2019), "Miracle on 34th Street" (2019). She is also a Film actress as well. Film credits include "BLOODFLY" (post-production), "Wings of a Girl" (2019) and "Z Dead End" (post-production).

LAUREN WISEHART

Go-To-Hell-Kitty/Judge/Aaron

Lauren Wisehart is a Senior at Utica University studying Animal Behavior. This is her 5th musical production overall and her first one at Utica University.

DANTE PALUMBO

Sgt. Fogarty/Harry/Doctor/etc.
Dante Palumbo is a sophomore at Utica University and is excited to be a part of "Chicago." This will be his second show, followed by "Almost Maine" at

the end of April. Dante's first show ever was "Spring Awakening" last semester and he is excited to continue his journey in acting. He is grateful for all the amazing people he has met at Utica and for those that continue to help him on his journey.

HAILEY BASSETT

Lead Dancer

Hailey Bassett has been dancing since she was two years old, with eleven years of competitive experience at Dance Work Studio in Utica, NY. She is currently the Co-Captain of the Utica Dance Team and a Sophomore in the Nursing Program at Utica University. Her favorite styles of dance include Jazz and Modern. Hailey is excited to perform in her first musical, "Chicago."

SOPHIA HARTNETT

Lead Dancer/Choreography

Sophia is a Sophomore in the Nursing program at Utica University. She has been studying dance for over seventeen years. Eleven of those years Sophia spent on stage competing regionally and nationally, receiving numerous top awards and scholarships. Sophia is trained in ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical, contemporary, modern,

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES...

major play but he has taken part in less important roles such as the one act plays that took place a couple months ago here at Utica. He plays the role of Fred Casely, and is very eager and thankful to have this role.

FRANCESCA ALFIERI

Liz/Mama Morton US

Francesca Alfieri is playing the role of Liz in “Chicago!” Francesca is from Rochester, NY and has been in theater her whole life. She is a junior this year majoring in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Education. She would like to thank her parents and her family for their continuous support. She would also like to thank Mykel Sapienza for being her #1 fan and her friends/roommates for always helping and encouraging her!

CAILEE BLACKINGTON

Annie/Harrison/Roxie Hart US

Cailee Blackington is extremely excited to continue her journey with the Utica University Theatre Department as Annie in “Chicago”. She is a sophomore majoring in Animal Behavior and minoring in Theatre. In the past, she has been in a total of 16 shows with notable roles such as Portia in “Something Rotten”

and Ilse in “Spring Awakening.” She thanks everyone who has supported her and cannot wait to share this show with you all!

EMMA HULLAR

June/MC/Velma Kelly US

Emma Hullar is a freshman at Utica. She has been involved in theatre since middle school and has performed in three New Hartford High School musicals; she has been in four shows at Sauquoit Valley High school. Emma has worked with Glimmerglass Youth Opera, Players of Utica, and Herkimer community theatre. Recently signed with Take 3 Talent in New York City, Emma plans to push forward in her screen-acting career—focusing on TV and film.

MARIAMI KENTCHADZE

Katalin “Hunyak” Helinszki

Mariami Kentchadze is an international student from the republic of Georgia. She is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Cybersecurity with minors in Criminal Justice and Computer Science. Aside from her passion for technology, she enjoys anything that allows her to express herself, which is one of the reasons why she fell in love with theatre. Mariami

CAST HEADSHOTS...



Paloma Collado



Hannah DeStefano



Derek Corsner



Marianne Tenney



Charles Buckley



Shayla Pominville



Norman Booth



Francesca Alfieri



Cailee Blackington



Emma Hullar



Mariami Kentchadze



Gabrielle Koenig



Dante Palumbo



Lauren Wischart



Hailey Bassett



Isabelle Chambers



Sidney Domroes



Sophia Hartnett



Maya Sauer

CAST LIST...

Roxie Hart, A Killer.....Paloma Collado
Velma Kelly, Her Competition.....Hannah DeStefano
Billy Flynn, Her Lawyer.....Derek Corsner
Mama Morton, Her Jailer.....Marianne Tenney
Amos Hart, Her Husband.....Charles Buckley
Mary Sunshine, A Journalist.....Shayla Pominville
Fred Casely, Her Victim.....Norman Booth

Liz/Mama Morton US.....Francesca Alfieri
Annie/Harrison/Roxie Hart US.....Cailee Blackington
June/Master of Ceremonies/Velma Kelly US.....Emma Hullar
Katalin "Hunyak" Helinszki.....Mariami Kentchadze
Mona/Mary Sunshine US.....Gabrielle Koenig
Go-To-Hell-Kitty/Judge/Aaron.....Lauren Wischart
Sergeant Fogarty/Harry/Doctor and others.....Dante Palumbo

Lead Dancer.....Hailey Bassett
Lead Dancer.....Isabelle Chambers
Lead Dancer.....Sidney Domroes
Lead Dancer.....Sophia Hartnett
Lead Dancer.....Maya Sauer

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES...

PALOMA COLLADO

Roxie Hart

Paloma Collado is so incredibly excited to be playing her first lead role as Roxie Hart. From the first moment she stepped on stage in Utica's production of "Jekyll and Hyde" she knew that performing was an immense passion of hers. Though there were bumps throughout the process, her favorite highlight would be singing alongside the talented Hannah DeStefano.

no. This was a huge role to take on and she spent any bits of time to assure she did it justice.

HANNAH DESTEFANO

Velma Kelly/Graphic Design

Hannah DeStefano is in the final year of her Communications and Media degree with a concentration in Theatre here at Utica University. Hannah looks forward to continuing her time in the arts and hopes you enjoy her performance as Velma Kelly. Her recent roles

CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES...

include Wendla Bergmann in "Spring Awakening" and Bea Bottom in "Something Rotten." She wants to let Paloma know how proud she is of her and her shine as Roxie Hart.

DEREK CORSNER

Billy Flynn

"Chicago" will mark Derek's 28th theatrical production and his 3rd here at Utica. After an absence from the stage last semester partaking in the Disney College Program in Orlando, Derek is excited to return to the stage working with all of the extremely talented people who make up the cast, crew and directors.

MARIANNE TENNEY

Mama Morton

Her first theatre performance was at the age of 6 when she played a munchkin in "The Wizard of Oz" and was then involved in many musicals and Drama Club during High School. At 17 she had her first lead role as Miss Adelaide in "Guys and Dolls." Her last performance was 2019 in "A Christmas Carol" just before the pandemic. She's elated to return to the stage tonight as Mama in "Chicago."

CHARLES BUCKLEY

Amos Hart

Charles Buckley is a second year Communications and Media major at Utica University with minors in Theatre and Creative Writing. This marks his second production at Utica University and his first outing with a solo song! His previous roles include Brother Jeremiah from last year's production of "Something Rotten."

SHAYLA POMINVILLE

Mary Sunshine

Shayla Pominville is a Utica University Psychology/Childhood Education major with minor in Theatre. She is an avid theater performer with an adjacent interest in singing. She has been in 17 previous performances, 3 of which have been on the Utica stage. One of her favorite roles was Anna in "Spring Awakening" as an interesting change from her usual performances. She is happy to continue to broaden her horizons with this rendition of "Chicago."

NORMAN BOOTH

Fred Casely

Norman Booth is a freshman Health Sciences major on the PT track. This is his first