

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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Award-Winning Holiday Musical Salutes World War II Days of Radio, Big-Band Tunes, Swing Dancing and Patriotism

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The holiday spirit that uplifted a generation of Americans during the bleak years of World War II will be reawakened by big-band tunes and patriotism as the University Theatre presents the award-winning musical “The 1940’s Radio Hour” Friday, Nov. 14, through Sunday, Nov. 16.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee in the Performing Arts Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Written by Walton Jones and Carol Lees, “The 1940’s Radio Hour” features classics songs including “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy,” “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” and “Strike up the Band” blended with swing dancing, old-fashioned sound effects and colorful commercials. The musical, which received the 1980 Theatre World Award, is directed by J. Don Luna, professor of theatre and chair of the Department of Communications and Theatre.

“The play touches on universal themes of patriotism, friendship and ambition,” Luna said. “It is very topical in its support of the troops overseas. The actors have embraced the project and have created a moving, wildly-entertaining evening of theatre.”

The musical, set in Hotel Astor’s Algonquin Room in Times Square, takes audiences on a sentimental journey back to Dec. 21, 1942, during a live broadcast of The Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade to troops overseas. The plot centers around a harassed producer who copes with an intoxicated lead singer, a delivery boy who wants to be in front of the microphone, and the impact of war on those who are called to serve and those who love them.

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Tickets are \$10 for general audiences; \$5 for faculty and staff; and \$3 for students with SandDollar\$ ID. For more information or to order tickets, call the Performing Arts Center ticket box office at 361.825.2787.

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