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# Something ‘Rotten’ At YHS

Swindles, Romance  
And Song – It All  
Collides In The Spring  
Production Of ‘Dirty,  
Rotten Scoundrels’

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The upcoming Yankton High School (YHS) musical is sure to bring lots of laughs as the school produces the musical “Dirty, Rotten Scoundrels.” The show is set for 7 p.m. April 18-20 and 22 at the Summit Activities Center theater. This musical is based on the non-musical late-1980’s comedy film, “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels,” which starred Steve Martin and Michael Caine. A musical stage adaptation first ran on Broadway in 2005 while also having several tours across the United States. The show closed on Broadway in September 2006 after a total of 626 performances.

The play follows two con men in the south of France, only one of whom is established. He makes women fall in love with him and gets their money, then sends them packing.

“A young con man from America comes into the picture, and the veteran decides to take him under his wing,” said musical director Keith Goeden. “The two end up having a competition to see who is the best of the bunch.”

He added the competition involves both men trying to seduce a young woman in order to win her affections.

“That bet really ends up being the plot of the whole play,” Goeden said. “They’re competing to win her affections, and she goes back and forth on both of them.”

He said the reason he chose this musical was because he was intrigued by it when he saw it on Broadway about a decade ago.

“At that time, I thought it was a cute and fun play,” Goeden said. “Any time I pick a show, I try to have the type of show that matches up with the kids we have here as best as it possibly can.”

Another reason he decided on this musical was because YHS has done two fairly small musicals the last two years. He decided he wanted to try to have a bigger show again.

Goeden said part of the reason why bigger musicals aren’t usually selected is because of scheduling conflicts that arise.

“The musical is bigger this year in terms of the number of kids we have involved. Last year, we had about 16 kids in the cast; this year, we have around 40,” he said. “We try to get more kids involved, which is great, but it causes headaches sometimes. When kids miss practices, at a certain point they need to choose what they want to do. A lot of kids want to do everything, and sometimes they don’t get that choice.”

Goeden said this show also features more than 200 pages of music and a great deal of material, a longer script, and the length of the play is increased compared to previous musicals performed at YHS. The bigger production also involves around 70 students, including those working backstage.

He added that cast members have been “working like heck” to get ready for the upcoming shows.

“Over the Easter weekend, we put in long days and are now only down to the last rehearsals,” Goeden said. “We’ve been ratcheting things up. We know our time is limited, and I think we’re getting there. That said, we still have a lot of hard work we need to put in before we’re show-ready.”

Sarah Santos, who plays Christine in the show, said she loves the dancing and singing in this musical.

“I first did a musical at YHS as a freshman and loved it and have been doing plays ever since,” she said. “I love meeting new people, and the cast members really become a family. I love to show my stuff on stage, and I think this will be my favorite musical I’ve been a part of.”

Goeden said when he is recruiting students for shows, he just tells them to give it a shot.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

**Paden Schmidt, as Lawrence, and Sarah Santos, as Christine, head a large cast in Yankton High School’s production of the musical “Dirty, Rotten Scoundrels,” which will be performed at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre April 18-20 and April 22. Showtime is 7 p.m. each night.**

“Most people that end up becoming involved in the theater end up not just liking it, but loving it,” he said. “It’s just that initial step of trying it. I tell them that they don’t necessarily have to be on stage, they can work other jobs backstage.”

The finishing touches are currently being put on the production, Goeden said.

“We’ve been having a lot of hectic last several rehearsals,” he said. “We try to attack certain things way before, but as you get closer, desperation forces you to take things more seriously and to work harder. Three weeks ago, things were more laid back — now, kids know the time is getting short, we will get a lot done between now and opening night.”

Goeden said this play is very funny and is a chance for community members to check out the school’s theatrical talent.

He added that “Scoundrels” is a “PG” show.

“Everyone has to make the call on their own,” he said. “I wouldn’t have any problem showing my nieces and friends’ kids the musical. I don’t think it’s bad at all, and we cleaned up some of the naughty stuff. There is still some kissing in the show, though.”

Goeden said people who think they might not like theater should give “Scoundrels” a chance.

“It’s really hilarious,” he said. “People say, ‘I don’t like theater.’ Well, they should give it a shot. They might be surprised and should come out to see the kids’ talents we have here.”

## CAST LIST

Lawrence — Paden Schmidt  
Freddy — Jase Likness  
Andre — Matt Watt  
Christine — Sarah Santos  
Muriel — Lexi Fokken  
Jolene — Tierney Scoblic

Lenore — Alexa Berg  
Sophia — Gabrielle Swensen  
Croupier — Devin Clark  
Conductor — Jacob Bies  
Waiter — Garner Brandt  
Renee — Bailey Franzen  
Gerard — Cade Newland  
Usherette — Maddy Logue  
Hotel Manger — Alex Rehurek  
Sailors — Kellen Soulek, Devin Clark, Tom Kellen, Mitch Riibe  
Porter — Derek Gravholt  
Cop — Cole Modregger

Nikos — Adam Spencer  
Accordian Player — Cody Geary  
Chorus: Kevin White, Colby Benson, Jack Tramp, Tyler Stoll, Evan Schade, Kourtney Erickson, Alanna Binder, Cayla Slaterry, Jeryka Goble, Rachel Orton, Gabby Slowey, Grace Adam, Kisha Jensen, Jenna De-Boar, Haylee Worm, Shane Wright, Mitch Riibe, Jackie Pajl, Bailey Franzen, Kelsey Butler, Susanna Kinsley, Jessica Popovich

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## South Dakota Oral History Center Moves To USD’s I.D. Weeks Library

VERMILLION — The South Dakota Oral History Center is finding a new home at the I.D. Weeks Library on the campus of the University of South Dakota.

The center holds thousands of recorded interviews dating back to the 1950s that document personal experiences from the people who lived the history of the Northern Plains and the state of South Dakota. About half of the interviews preserve Native American memories and experiences from the 1890s to the present.

“This move will stabilize the future of the collection and make sure these unique recordings are here to benefit future generations,” said Dan Daily, dean of libraries at USD.

Currently the Oral History Center is housed in Dakota Hall as part of the Institute of American Indian Studies. For the past three years, a federal grant has paid for workers to transfer the interviews from magnetic tape to digital recordings and to create a catalog of the contents.

That grant is ending, but Daily says he will continue to seek new grants to continue the work on the collection.

For now, he plans to add a staff member who will work with the South Dakota Oral History Center as well as other special collections in the library archives. Library staff also will continue the work of preserving and cataloging the interviews.

“I envision that SDOHC will continue to work with academic departments collecting and preserving interviews

and making them accessible for research on South Dakota, the Northern Plains and Native Americans,” Daily said.

Library archives at USD already contain significant manuscript collections of Native Americans, such as artist Oscar Howe and USD alumnus Chuck Trimble. The I.D. Weeks building provides a climate-controlled environment for the master tapes of the oral history collection, which is not available in Dakota Hall.

The South Dakota Oral History Center has existed for more than four decades. It includes six collections of recordings:

- The American Indian Research Project, begun in 1967 and containing recordings of Native Americans from the Northern Plains.
- The South Dakota Oral History Project, featuring recordings from every county in South Dakota on a broad range of topics.
- The Stanislaus Maudlin Collection, recordings by Father Stanislaus Maudlin of the Blue Cloud Abbey.
- The John S. Painter Collection, recordings collected between the 1950s and the 1980s.
- The James Emery Collection, including Native American music, dating back to the early 1950s.
- The Lindley Collection, recordings that detail the lives of people in the Northern Plains.