

ROCK RIVER
Repertory Theatre

PRESENTS

CABARET



August 11, 12, 18, 19
at 7 pm

August 20
at 1 pm

Book by **JOE MASTEROFF**

Lyrics by **FRED EBB** Music by **JOHN KANDER**

Based on the play by **JOHN VAN DRUTEN** and stories by

CHRISTOPHER ISHERWOOD

Music Director & Conductor **Cindy Blanc**

Choreographer **Kaity Paschetto**

Assistant Director

Jessica Wileman

Technical Director

Andrew Brackett

Stage Manager

Cadence May

Violence Design &

Choreography

Orion Couling

Costume Design

Amber Hayes

Makeup Design

Hair & Wig Design

Emily Anne

Sound Design

Mike Schuler

Michael Palmer

Lighting Design

Andrew Brackett

Marketing Design

Penny Case

Scenic Design

Andrew Brackett

Set Construction

Glen Bolt

Andrew Brackett

Props

Alyssa DeJong

Cadence May

House Managers

Josiah Tropp

Scenic Artist

Larry Schultz

Spotlight Operators

Liam MacPherson

Jackson Polen

Thank you to those who have given and shared their gifts in kindness.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

Willkommen	Emcee and Company
So What?	Fräulein Schneider
Don't Tell Mama	Sally and the Kit Kat Girls
Mein Herr	Sally
Perfectly Marvelous	Sally and Cliff
Two Ladies	Emcee and Two Ladies
It Couldn't Please Me More (A Pineapple)	Fräulein Schneider and Herr Schultz
Tomorrow Belongs to Me	Nazi Youth / Emcee
Maybe This Time.....	Sally
Money.....	Emcee and Company
Married	Herr Schultz and Fräulein Schneider
Tomorrow Belongs to Me (Reprise)	Fräulein Kost Ernst Ludwig and Company

Act II

Entr'acte	Kit Club Band
Kick Line.....	Emcee and Girls
Married (Reprise)	Herr Schultz
If You Could See Her	Emcee
What Would You Do?	Fräulein Schneider
I Don't Care Much	Emcee
Cabaret	Sally
Willkommen (Reprise)	Cliff and Emcee

THERE WILL BE ONE 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Emcee Nolan Limones

Kit Kat Girls

LuLu Madison Leeder

Rosie Alyssa Ayen

Texas Dijon Kirland

Fritzie Kylie Balk-Yaatenen

Frenchie Alexa Schaefer

Helga..... Tatum Adkins

Kit Kat Dancers

Bobby..... Griffin Eldridge

Victor..... Alyssa DeJong

Hans..... Justin P. McDermott

Herman..... Hunter Bruegger

Sally Bowles..... Korinne Yonan

Clifford Bradshaw..... Riley Parkhurst

Ernst Ludwig..... Eric Salvi

Fräulein Schneider..... Carol Brown

Fräulein Kost..... Emma Bartholomew

Herr Schultz..... John B. Boss

Max..... Alyssa DeJong

Ensemble..... Ken Regez

Orchestra

Conductor / Keys..... Cindy Blanc

Reeds..... Ken Jarczyk

Trumpet..... Vicki Hastings

Trombone..... Abby Goodhall

Bass..... Danielle Dillon

Percussion..... Matt Peters

Taytum Adkins - "Helga"



Taytum is a sophomore at UW Whitewater. They have over 17 years of dance experience in competition and choreographing. Taytum has choreographed ELF and SHREK for the Janesville Performing Arts Center and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST and NEMO for Whitewater High School. This fall they will be the new POMs Coach for Craig High School.

Alyssa Ayen - "Rosie"



Alyssa is delighted to make her debut with the Rock River Repertory Theatre Company. Her latest theater credits include ELF, BEAUTY and the BEAST, MATILDA, and MAMMA MIA with Verona Area Community Theater. Alyssa has over 20 years of training in various styles of dance, including jazz, tap, and musical theatre. She recently joined the BD Factory, Barrio Dance Studio's premiere competition team that will compete in the World of Dance competition later this year. She would like to thank her parents for their endless support of all her creative endeavours - the expensive dance convention fees and countless curling iron burns really paid off. Enjoy the CABARET!

Meet Kylie Balk-Yaatenen - "Fritzie"



Kylie is originally from Wausau, Wisconsin and moved to Janesville in November. Kylie's experience includes competitively dancing for 15 years. This is her first role in a musical, and she is very excited for you to see it!

Emma Bartholomew - "Fräulein Kost"



Emma moved to the Madison area in winter 2021 and got involved in local community theater shortly thereafter. Prior to her move, Emma was living and performing in the greater Philadelphia area from 2018-2021. A classically trained dancer and certified goofball, Emma's favorite past theater experiences include roles such as Alexi Darling in RENT! and Badass Betty in THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK Musical. This is her first show with Rock River Rep.

Meet John B. Boss - "Herr Schultz"



John comes to us having recently played Joseph Pulitzer in Disney's NEWSIES at Summerplace Theatre in Naperville, Illinois. John is happy to share his talents in the Wisconsin area once again! Wisconsin audiences may remember roles with Rock River Repertory, Bower City, and Wisconsin Theatre Works. He has played Thenardier in LES MISÉRABLES, Roger in THE PRODUCERS, Mary Sunshine in CHICAGO, Danvers in JEKYLL AND HYDE, Santa in ANOTHER NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS and varied roles in MIDLIFE CRISIS the Musical. Other career highlights include Roger in the national tour of THE PRODUCERS and Sir Walter in U.K. Tours of PERSUASION, a musical drama. John can be seen in various commercials, independent films and network TV shows. He is especially excited to share the stage with his longtime friend Carol Brown and sing again with Cindy Blanc, musical director. This marks John's 5th production of CABARET.



MEET THE CAST

Carol Brown - "Fräulein Schneider"



Among many others, some of Carol's favorite musical stage credits include Sally Plummer, FOLLIES, and Golde, FIDDLER on the ROOF (Irving Cultural Arts Center, TX), Vera Charles, MAME (Casa Mañana, TX), Rose, GYPSY (Roadhouse Productions, PA), Nettie Fowler, CAROUSEL (Dallas Summer Musicals), Lady Thiang, THE KING and I (AWL Productions, OK), Aunt Eller, OKLAHOMA! (Theatre at the Center, IN) Mae Peterson, BYE BYE BIRDIE (TATC) and Marie, THE MOST HAPPY FELLA (TATC). She thanks Jim and Cindy for this wonderful opportunity.

Hunter Bruegger - "Herman"



Hunter is beyond excited to be on the stage performing again. This is his first time being on the stage in over a year. Hunter spends his free time helping with makeup for local productions. He is very happy to be dancing, singing, and acting again. His most recent shows are INTO THE WOODS (Cinderella's Stepmother), OKLAHOMA! (Ali Hakim), and THE WEDDING SINGER (Dolly Parton Impersonator). He would like to thank his family, friends, cast and crew for all their support and hard work. Enjoy the Show!

Alyssa DeJong - "Max / Victor"



Alyssa is delighted to be back on stage in CABARET! She was last seen in Rock River Rep's 2018 production of SISTER ACT, and other favorite past credits include THE LITTLE MERMAID, LEGALLY BLONDE, and FIDDLER on the ROOF. When not on stage you can find her backstage, working on productions with the Parker Arts Academy. She would like to thank her family for the continuous love and support over the years, and also the amazing Directors, Stage Crew, and Cast for making this show such a wonderful experience to be a part of. Willkommen and Enjoy!

Griffin Eldridge - "Bobby/Cliff understudy"



This will be Griffin's first production at The Rock River Repertory theatre! Other favorite roles include Harry in MAMMA MIA! (Parker Arts Academy), Mr.Krabs in SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL! (PAA), Joseph in JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT! and most recently, Warner in LEGALLY BLONDE (School District of Janesville). Griffin is a Senior at the PAA, is member of the 2023 WSMA all state honors choir, and went to state for Solo and Ensemble. Thank you to all of my family and colleagues who have inspired and pushed me to pursue this journey of life.



MEET THE CAST

Dijon Michelle Kirkland - "Honey Dee"

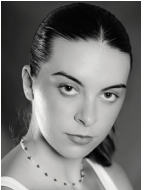


Dijon is a native of Washington D.C., and has been dancing for over 20 years. She attended Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Ailey School, Princeton Ballet School, Maryland Youth Ballet, and Alonzo King's

Lines Ballet. Dijon holds a B.A. in Dance from Point Park University. Upon graduation, she danced with The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2nd company (DCC2) for two seasons. She then became a member of the Cleveland Cavalier Girl NBA dance team in 2015 and is a part of the 2015-16 NBA championship team! She's been a part of various projects such as Mojuba Dance Collective, Soursop Stories, Blakk Jakk Dance Company, and some independent projects. In November 2020, Dijon was a part of the supporting cast of an independent film "Lovely Jackson." Dijon is finishing her Master of Fine Arts in dance studies at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. She has guest taught at Northern Kentucky University, The American College Dance Association, and Beloit College. Dijon recently choreographed her work with Wild Space Dance Company in Milwaukee, WI. Currently, she teaches dance for the School District of Janesville - Parker Arts Academy.

"Art is life, God is love."

Madison Leeder - "Lulu/Sally Understudy"



Madison is a rising sophomore at Millikin University pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre and she is thrilled to be returning to Rock River Rep in this perfectly marvelous production! Some of her favorite credits include

Judy in WHITE CHRISTMAS and Miss Scarlett in CLUE: On Stage! She would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support and the cast and crew for giving her this opportunity. Enjoy the show!

Nolan Limones - "Emcee"



Nolan is honored to grace the stage again in this wonderful role as the "Emcee" for CABARET. Nolan is currently attending Stevens Point University where he is studying Musical Theatre. Some of Nolan's favorite roles include Chef Louis in THE LITTLE MERMAID, The Wolf/Rapunzel's Prince in INTO THE WOODS, Ghost of Jacob Marley in A CHRISTMAS CAROL, among many other productions.

Justin McDermott - "Hans"



Justin is a graduate from the University of Northern Iowa where he received his degree in Theatre. After graduating from UNI, Justin has choreographed and performed professionally for multiple different theatre companies throughout the Midwest. Recently, he sailed the seas while performing on board Disney Cruise Line. Justin is thrilled to be a part of this production alongside many talented performers and friends. He wants to thank his family for always supporting his theatrical endeavors and he hopes you enjoy the show!

Riley Parkhurst - "Clifford Bradshaw"



Riley Parkhurst is thrilled to be a part of CABARET. Over the last eight years, he has performed in 16 musicals at Parker High School, UW Rock County and Rock River Rep. His favorite roles he has performed: Bert in MARY POPPINS, Gomez Addams in ADDAMS FAMILY, and Carl in GHOST. Riley holds an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from UW Rock County-Whitewater. His hobbies and interests include gardening, home repairs, and creative cooking. He would like to thank his dad, mom, sister, and girlfriend Abby for all of their support. He hopes you all enjoy the show as much as he does!



MEET THE CAST

Ken Regez - "Ensemble/Herr Schultz understudy"



Ken has been involved in theatre on and off since he was a child. The late and wonderful Elsie Van Tassell did his makeup in his very first show when he was twelve years old. Over the years Ken has worked in various area theatres, many times with Jim Tropp—a highlight was LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS where he got to be eaten by a plant every night, an opportunity not afforded to everyone. In 2021 Ken appeared in the season three opening episode of JOE PERA TALKS WITH YOU which was seen on the Adult Swim network. Ken is proud to understudy the great John Boss in this production and is grateful to Jim Tropp and Rock River Repertory Theatre for staging this great production of a very timely show. Take its lessons very seriously. In his spare time Ken enjoys collecting 16mm prints of vintage motion pictures made prior to

Eric Salvi - "Ernst Ludwig"



Eric loves theatre, performing, and music and has had a wide range of experiences with each, from running lights, sound, and cameras, to working with wardrobe and makeup, to performing on stage, at recitals, and even in the haunted forest at Schuster's Farm every October. Following a hiatus in the more musical of these activities, the opportunity to perform in CABARET was too appealing to pass up. Eric has previously performed with the Rock River Repertory Theatre in their production of GHOST as the Subway Ghost, and with a healthy appreciation for some good villainy, getting to play with them again, this time as Herr Ludwig, makes being in CABARET even more exciting.

Alexa Schaefer - "Frenchie"



Alexa is beyond excited to be joining this beautiful production! She is currently a student at UW Madison, majoring in Dance. Alexa fell in love with performing at the age of 5. Some credits include Tina Harmer (BILLY ELLIOT) The Acrobat (MATILDA) a Newsie (Disney's NEWSIES) Featured Dancer/Dance Captain (BEAUTY and the BEAST) and Featured Dancer (THE WIZARD of OZ). Along with performing, Alexa has choreographed several musicals with different theaters in the area. Most recently, awarded Best Choreography for her work in Monona Grove High School's production of BEAUTY and the BEAST. Alexa would like to give special thanks to her family and friends for always supporting her in everything she does! Enjoy the show!

Korinne Yonan - "Sally Bowles"



Korinne is thrilled to be joining Rock River Rep for their production of CABARET. She has appeared in many shows throughout the Chicagoland area. Recent credits include: URINETOWN (Little Sally), PILLOWMAN (The Child) with Surging Films & Theatrics; GUYS AND DOLLS (Adelaide), SPRING AWAKENING (Ilse) with Theatre Nebula; YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN (u/s Lucy, Sally) with Citadel Theatre; FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY (Strawberry) with Uptown Music Theatre; THE ADDAMS FAMILY (Ensemble), FREAKY FRIDAY (Wells), and EMMA! A POP MUSICAL (Ensemble) with Williams Street Repertory. She was recently nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Jeff Award for her performance as Little Sally. She would like to thank her sister, Hannah, for being her forever duet partner.



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Emily Anne Makeup, Hair and Wig Design

Emily has accomplished much in her 13 years of artistry. She has diverse professional experience ranging from show designs to bridal, color theory education to product development. Some theatre makeup shows she has worked on include ADDAMS FAMILY, SWEENEY TODD, HEATHERS, and INTO THE WOODS. Emily has recently added Crystal & Reiki Energy Healing to her many talents and enjoys helping others on their healing journey.



Andrew Brackett Technical Director

Andrew is the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design and Stage Management at the University of Nebraska Kearney. Previously he has been the Assistant Professor of Theatre Design and Production at Fort Lewis College and a post graduate teaching fellow with Shenandoah University. He graduated from Northern Illinois University in 2018 with his Masters of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology specializing in Lighting Design. Andrew has previously worked for Royal Caribbean, Norwegian, and Disney Cruise Lines in their technical production departments; TEXAS Musical Drama in Canyon, TX as Associate Production Manager, Master Electrician, Effects Technician, and Assistant Pyro Technician; Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre, as Master Electrician and Lighting Designer; and for several high schools, dinner theaters, and theatre companies around southern Wisconsin as a designer and technical director. Some of his credits include THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Lighting Design and Technical Direction), LES MISERABLES (Lighting and Automation Design), and JEKYLL AND HYDE: The Musical (Lighting Design).



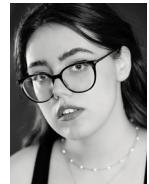
Orion Couling Violence Design and Choreographing

Orion is the award-winning founder and executive director of EDGE of Orion, an Illinois NFP. He is a specialist in project-based learning and carries 20 years of adventure based teaching experience. As a sought-after stage combat instructor, his focus on teaching safe and compassionate practices have benefited over 84 productions. Orion started his work with Dueling Arts international as an instructor for 13 years and has moved forward to create movement-based theatre for inclusion-based models. His work includes all learning styles and is one of the few stage combat instructors who teach actors with developmental challenges. His choreography is story-driven and creative. With over 100 directing credits in professional and youth theatre to his name, he remains one of the foremost experts in dynamic educational theatre. Orion is also a filmmaker, playwright, stunt coordinator, and a licensed Maritime Captain. When not leading the “inclusion revolution,” you’ll find him playing with his Irish Folk-rock band “The Donnybrooks,” leading ghost tours, or by the water.



Cadence May Stage Manager

CABARET is Cadence’s third show with Rock River Rep, and she is very excited to be back! Cadence has extensive experience with Stage Managing and Assistant Stage Managing in theatre. Some of her favorite productions she’s managed include THE MISANTHROPE, THE WEDDING SINGER, and INTO THE WOODS. CABARET is one of her favorite shows and she hopes that you all enjoy it as much as she does.



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

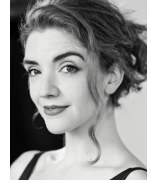
Amber Hayes Costume Design

Amber Hayes has been involved in Professional, Community and Educational theatre since the year 2000. Though they tend to blend into a slurry of sequins, spandex, and tux shirts, a quick estimation of the number of theatrical productions under her rhinestone belt is somewhere beyond 85. This includes costume designing, curating, altering, caretaking, and prop building, along with puppet design and construction. That's just about a bazillion loads of laundry, a kazillion alterations, a fi-fi-fillion hours spent shopping, sourcing and creating. (Not to mention the countless moments spent waiting in line to have her yards of fabric cut while praying no one asks her, "Whatcha making?" (Because, it's much easier to tell them 'Pajama pants' instead of the odd costume piece required in the script.) She was the first artist to Costume Design the musical, BKLYN off-Broadway, and has worked with professional Broadway and Regional actors alike, along with countless glossy-eyed aspiring actors. Her most favorites will always be the kind and compassionate ones who are smart enough to know that it takes the cooperation and teamwork of the entire cast, crew, and production team to produce and put on a great show. Amber has studied her favorite comedians, and healthcare clowning for the last 20 years, taking the art of humor to the people who truly need it most. If you pull out your magnifying glass, you will see that humor, silliness, and playfulness is endlessly layered within each morsel of the art she creates. This is witnessed from the cushy theatre seats you're sitting in and in the chairs driven by a helper, with handlebars and big wheels attached to the back. It's never just about theatre, it is always about entertainment, and promoting the notion that spontaneous joy and laughter soothe the spirit. She teaches that we are all sharing a human experience in a world where magic actually does exist—if you only look close enough. Some of us are meant to watch the magic, and others are meant to BE the magic. I think you might just understand by now, which one she is. Enjoy the show and make someone laugh today for Amber. That's all she's ever after.



Kaity Paschetto Choreographer

Kaity is a Chicago-based musical theatre performer, dancer, and choreographer. She earned her BFA from the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. She has trained with the Louisville Ballet's Dale Brannon and Kathy Sawyer; the University of Kentucky's Teresa Bautista; and the University of Michigan's faculty, including Ron De Jesus, Judy Rice, Sara Randazzo, and renowned musical theatre choreographer Linda Goodrich. Her credits include CRAZY FOR YOU (original Broadway Choreography set by Shari Jordan), SHREK, ANYTHING GOES, RAGTIME, LEGALLY BLONDE (dance captain), and Metropolis Performing Arts Center's recent production of CABARET. Outside of the studio and stage, Kaity is a certified teacher of English as a Foreign Language, with a specialization in young learners. She believes that the best teachers remind themselves of what it is to be a student, and she strives to learn something new every day. She enjoys spending her free time in the park or in the garden with her husband Ethan and their dog, Sesame.



Mike Schuler Sound Design

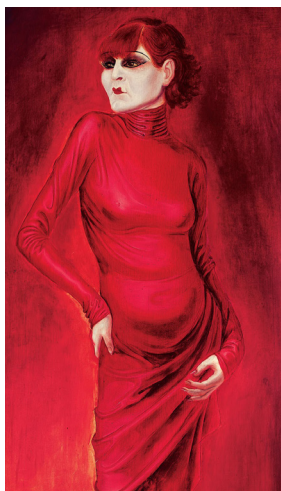
Mike has been designing sound for musical theater since 1999 and have been the A/V Coordinator at First Lutheran Church of Janesville since 2018. Since 1999 he's designed well over 100 shows and events. Mike has designed sound for Susan's School of Dance, Theatre Unlimited, The Armory Dinner Theater, Spotlight On Kids, Janesville Little Theatre, Bowler City, Parkview School District, Beloit Turner, Parker High School, Parker Arts Academy, Craig High School, Milton High School, Brodhead High School, Edgerton High School, Janesville Performing Arts Center, Edgerton Performing Arts Center, Marshall Middle School, Edison Middle School, ChickenBoys Murder Mysteries, The Lions Club Mud Volleyball and Corn Roast, Dragons On The Rock, and Rock River Rep. Mike wishes to thank everyone who has helped him follow his passion all of these years!



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Jessica Wileman
Assistant Director

Jessica is a passionate storyteller and educator who believes in a story's power to heal, connect, and build community. A director and choreographer, she is grateful for the opportunity to be working with Rock River Rep for the first time. She was the artistic director and owner of Step Up Dance Academy where she won several awards for her choreography including best storytelling. She is currently working with the Edgerton School Districts theater program where she will be directing and choreographing Meredith Wilson's *THE MUSIC MAN* (November 2023). Past directing credits include: *PETER AND THE STARCATCHER*, *NEWSIES*, *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL*, *WHEN SHAKE-SPEARE'S LADIES Meet* and others. Jessica would also like to thank her wonderful husband.



MEET THE ORCHESTRA

Cindy Blanc

Music Director & Conductor



Cindy is so happy that she was coaxed out of theatre retirement to serve as Music Director for Rock River Repertory's production of CABARET - one of her favorite shows. Cindy holds degrees in music education and

performance and makes her living doing both. She teaches K-6 general and instrumental music, serves as a parish musician, and operates a private music studio. She previously spent significant time in regional orchestra pits, including as music director at Timber Lake Playhouse, The Armory, and Skylight Music Theatre, but has recently shifted her freelance music work to mostly local venues. Cindy lives in rural Green County with her amazing 80s-has-been-drummer-husband Peter Minucci and four cats: Gustav Holst, Percy Grainger, Rosen, and Delta.

Abby Goodhall

Trombone Player



Abby is thrilled to be knocking the dust off her trombone chops for this fantastic production. Originally from Kenosha, WI, Abby attended UW-Platteville and holds degrees in Instrumental, Choral, and General

Music Education, as well as Music Non-Teaching degrees in Voice and Trombone. She finished her first year of teaching as the Co-Choral Director at Parker High School and Parker Arts Academy. Her responsibilities include teaching choir, music theory classes, and co-music directing the musicals. Abby's day job may be in the choral world, but she gets the best of both worlds when she has singing and trombone in her life. Outside of her teaching hours, Abby is an active member in Midwest Choral Artists, and plays trombone in groups across southern Wisconsin. Abby lives in Janesville with her sweet and spunky bunny, Doodle.

Danielle Dillon

Bass Player



Danielle is excited to join the pit orchestra for this production of CABARET. She recently finished another summer production with the Platteville Summer Arts Festival in NATASHA, PIERRE, and the GREAT COMET

of 1812. She has been playing bass professionally with multiple theaters and music groups with UW-Platteville, Dubuque Grand Opera House, Bell Tower Theater, Ken Killian Big Band, Larry Busch Jazz Orchestra, UW-Whitewater, etc. She currently teaches 4th Grade in the Whitewater Unified School District. Danielle hopes you enjoy the show!

Vicki Hastings

Trumpet



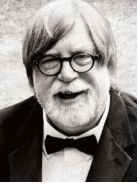
Vicki holds a BA and MA in trumpet performance from Calif. State University, Chico and has completed 3 years toward her DMA at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music while teaching as an Associate In-

structor of Trumpet. She performs regularly with regional big bands, wind ensembles, brass quintets, and whatever other freelance opportunities pop up. She loves playing musicals and is having a blast playing trumpet with the Rock River Repertory Theatre. Vicki lives in Rockford, maintains a busy private trumpet studio, and chases after her two whippets, Luca and Teo. She especially loves gigging with her trumpet playing husband, Scott.



MEET THE ORCHESTRA

Ken Jarczyk Woodwinds



A Chicago native, Ken has specialized in woodwind performance on Clarinet & Bass Clarinet, Soprano, Alto, Tenor & Baritone Saxophones. He has toured the globe backing such artists as Barry White, Gladys Knight, Bobby Rydell, Dizzy Gillespie, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Les Brown with Bob Hope, Les Elgart, and many others. A true "Theater Pit-Rat," Ken's first professional theater gig was in 1970 for a Chicago presentation of SWEET CHARITY. He has performed more shows than he can remember! He is very pleased to be in this production of "Cabaret" with his great friends, Director Jim Tropp, and Music Director Cindy Blanc. Ken is at home in classical, jazz and musical theater settings.

Matt Peters Percussion



Matt has been playing percussion since before he could walk. He has since earned degrees in performing and teaching. Past theater credits include Madison Repertory Theater, Madison Opera Inc., Madison Savoyards, Strollers Theater, Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, Chicago Opera Vanguard, Bay Street Players, the Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center, and many more. Matt hasn't played a theater show in over a decade and is very happy to be back.

WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

Emcee - He is the master of ceremonies at the Kit Kat Klub. He also comments on the action of the play.

Fräulein Schneider - Fräulein Schneider is the owner of the rooming house that Cliff stays at. While she is very traditional, she realizes that she is getting old and that, in the long run, small things don't always matter.

Clifford Bradshaw - Cliff is a novelist from Pennsylvania searching for something to write about. His travels have taken him all over Europe and he has finally arrived in Berlin. Little does Cliff know, he will find much more than he bargained for.

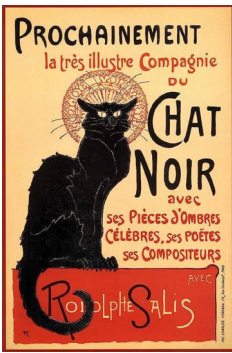
Fräulein Kost - A prostitute living in Fräulein Schneider's rooming house. She tries to fool Fräulein Schneider about her business daily and tends to get away with it. Fräulein Kost is similar to Ernst Ludwig—she seems pleasant, despite her actions; however, we see a different side of her later on in the story.

Sally Bowles - Sally is an English-born singer living in Berlin. Her lifestyle is that of a liberated woman: doing what she pleases and enjoying life to the fullest.

Herr Schultz - Herr Schultz also lives in the rooming house that Fräulein Schneider owns. He is a Jewish fruit store owner and woos Fräulein Schneider with exotic fruit. Despite the rise of the Nazis, he does not feel endangered and continues his life without worry.

Ernst - Ernst is a friendly, helpful person at first. His pleasantness helps Cliff find a place to stay, as well as provide him with some income to live. However, Ernst is a smuggler and has a dark side to him that is not revealed in the beginning.





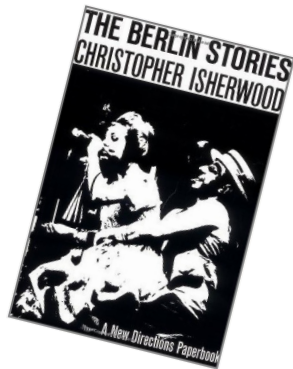
CABARET

The word "cabaret" is an old French term for taproom or tavern, social spaces where there were often impromptu per-

Le Chat Noir established the hallmarks of the art form. Patrons sat at tables to eat and drink while they watched a variety show on a small stage. The space was small, the performances intimate. The show was hosted by a conferencier, a type of emcee (or master of ceremonies), which further minimized the physical and psychological distance between performer and spectator. Early cabaret audiences were primarily other artists, philosophers, and journalists - the cultural elite. Interestingly, many of these art forms were associated not with high art or culture, but with circuses, music halls, and street performers. This tension between "high" and "low" art would continue to define cabaret.

formances. But, by the late 19th century, the word was used to describe gatherings of artists - poets, musicians, visual artists, actors, directors - who came together to share new work and, importantly, to critique mainstream society. Cabaret from its inception, has been an art form dedicated to the counter-culture, to pushing the boundaries of art, to questioning society.

The first formal cabaret, Le Chat Noir (the Black Cat), opened in Paris in 1881.



Origins of German Cabaret

The first successful German cabaret, the Uberbrett ("super variety theatre"), opened in Berlin in January 1901. Early German cabaret took itself seriously and endeavored to showcase true art, presented in a "refined and tasteful" way by professionals. Berlin was then part of the German Empire, ruled by an emperor. Strict censorship laws prevented the cabaret from satirizing political topics or presenting overtly sexual material. Many stars of the German cabaret, both in the early years and later, were Jewish.

Between 1901 and the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, cabarets were established in both Berlin and Munich, some leaning toward a more popular entertainment style, others firmly literary in their aspirations. By the start of World War 1, German cabaret had moved away from counter-cultural art and toward a commercial venture. Those in attendance were middle class pleasure-seekers out to enjoy their champagne while watching an uncontroversial variety show that featured sexual innuendo and racist humor.

SETTING

THE

SCENE

Year - 1929 -1930
 Location - Berlin, Germany



IMPORTANT EVENTS OF WWI AND WEIMAR GERMANY

1914	WWI begins	1918	Sailors and workers declare strikes Friedrich Ebert assumes chancellorship First German Republic established WWI ends
1919	Independent Socialists hold protests Versailles Treaty signed Weimar Constitution announced Hitler sent to infiltrate German Worker's Party	1920	German Worker's Party changes to National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis); membership comes to 2000
1921	Hitler becomes leader of Nazis	1922	Hitler imprisoned for rioting German reichsmark becomes very weak: 5,000,000 reichsmark= 1 US dollar
1923	Reichsmark becomes practically useless at 10,000,000 mark = 1 US dollar Rentenmark issued to try to raise value of the mark: 4.2 rentenmark = 1 US dollar	1924	Hitler is released from prison
1925	Hitler begins political comeback	1926	Germany enters League of Nations
1927	Unemployment Insurance Law passed CABARET takes place ★	1929	Treaty of Versailles reworked to allow reparations to be paid over 58 years US Stock Market crashes
1931	Four million are unemployed in Germany German Bank crisis	1933	Hitler is made Chancellor of Germany Hitler establishes the Third Reich

Living in Weimar Germany

During the Weimar era, 1918 to Hitler's rise to power in 1933, many Germans lived life to the fullest. The era was known for its over-the-top and excessive lifestyles. People were not afraid to express themselves socially, politically, and sexually. Experimentation was a common word during this time - from art to culture to religion and much more. The people of Germany were in a state that allowed them to try new things with little backlash from the government. Cabarets flourished providing entertainment for all. By the mid-1920s, around 50,000 gays and lesbians lived in Berlin. With its countless nightclubs and meeting points for homosexuals, bisexuals, or transvestites, the city became a true "Eldorado" for this growing and vibrant community. Germany also became the center of many movements including Dadaism and Expressionism. Artists like Otto Dix, George Grosz and John Heartfield painted pictures reflecting what they saw. We have added this artwork to our Cabaret through the projections that you will see throughout the performance.

CABARET

