

Downers Grove North High School Theatre Presents **CHICAGO**

March 9-11th



Courtesy of Brooke Kowalski, Downers Grove North Theatre President, Chicago the Musical, Downers Grove North High School

Students and staff of Downers Grove North Theatre have been hard at work putting together their spring musical, *Chicago*. This jazzy musical is set during the 1920s and tells the satirical story of two vaudevillian murderers. Nightclub sensation Velma Kelly and our not-so-innocent Roxie Hart land themselves in prison for murder and are both going to be represented by Chicago's slickest lawyer, Billy Flynn.

Neither of the women are willing to back down in their fight for fame and fortune. Through jazz, vaudeville, and dance, *Chicago* explores how far people will go to come out on top.

Everything in DGN Theatre is student made and run, and *Chicago* is going to be an exciting challenge for our student leadership team. For the first time in 30 years, the orchestra will be integrated into the set as they play the jazz music of *Chicago*. This brings the spirit of vaudeville and the 1920s jazz age front and center, taking the audience back in time. The company of more than 125 students have been hard at work rehearsing and preparing for one of Downers Grove North's most magnificent musicals the school has seen in many years.

Chicago also marks many milestones for the production staff in the theatre program. Mr. Brayer Teague, who has worked within the fine arts department at North for 30 years, will be conducting the pit orchestra. *Chicago* will be the very last musical of Mr. Teague's DGN career, as he is retiring at the end of this school year. Additionally, Downers Grove North Theatre is celebrating its first musical directed by the new

Director of Theatre, Mr. Ariel Mozes. Since 2020, Mr. Mozes has been working at DGN as the technical director and auditorium manager, and has made many great strides to improve the theatre program at North. His recent directing career at DGN has proven to be very successful, taking Downers Grove North's Varsity Show, *Bomb-itty of Errors* to the Illinois High School Theatre Festival, being the first show ever in the program's history.

The performances of this outstanding show will take place on March 9th, 10th, and 11th at 7pm. Tickets will be available late February at www.DGNTHEATRE.com. If you have any questions or need accommodations, contact director Ariel Mozes at amozes@csd99.org or call 630-795-8106. Limited tickets may be available at the door, so make sure to get your tickets in advance if you want to catch the best 'hot jazz' Downers Grove has ever seen.



Photo by: Nora Holmes

The stage of Downers Grove North's Clarence Johnson auditorium, with members of the set crew setting aside wood to use for the scenery.



Photo by: Brooke Kowalski

The pit orchestra rehearsing the music of *Chicago*, taught and conducted by Mr. Brayer Teague, the fine arts department chair of Downers Grove North.



Photo by: Brooke Kowalski

Actors at their first music rehearsal learning the vocals of *Chicago*, taught by Dr. Frank Piekarz.

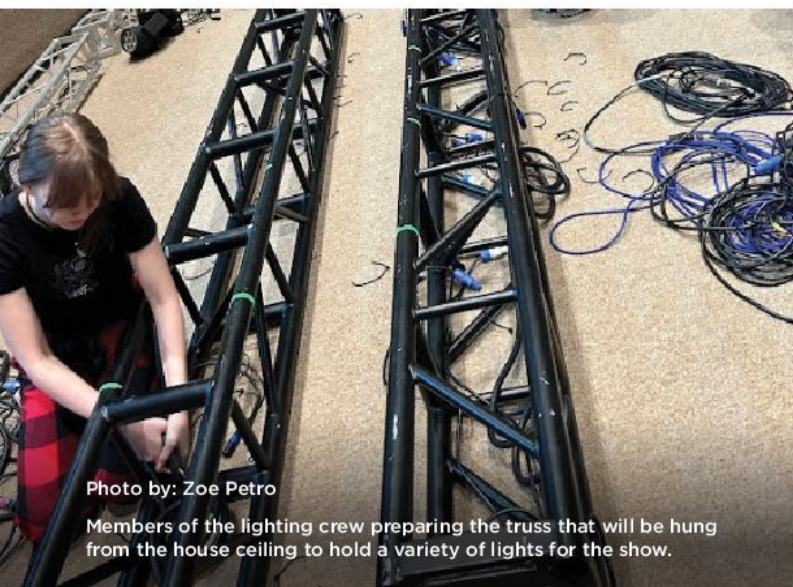


Photo by: Zoe Petro

Members of the lighting crew preparing the truss that will be hung from the house ceiling to hold a variety of lights for the show.

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