



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Woodstock, Woodstock North high school students present ‘Chicago: Teen Edition’

Dozens of students from both Woodstock and Woodstock North high schools are bringing all that jazz to the stage for six weekend performances of “Chicago: Teen Edition” first dazzling the stage on Friday, April 11.

Each spring, the theater departments from each high school combine efforts for a musical featuring the talents of Blue Streaks and Thunder performers and crew members. About 90 students are putting their skills toward this year’s production.

While students from Woodstock and Woodstock North are rivals in sports and some other competitive activities, the combined musical is one of the best examples of cooperation among the two student bodies.

"The crosstown musical is a highlight of the theatrical season for both theater programs and our community as a whole. In contrast to the friendly competition seen at the crosstown football game, the success of the spring musical is largely dependent on the collaborative efforts of students from both campuses," said Billy Seger, WHS theater director and assistant director for this year’s musical.

The musical is set in “roaring twenties” Chicago. Chorus girl Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap. But Amos learns he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "merry murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the "American dream": fame, fortune, and acquittal.

More than 90 students are involved in the production. Some of the lead parts will be played by the following actors:

- Roxie Hart - Emma Vanderstappen - WNHS junior
- Velma Kelly - Lydia Johanson - WHS junior
- Mama Morton - Miranda Michals - WNHS senior
- Billy Flynn - Sean Fiorina - WNHS senior
- Amos Hart - William Noe - WNHS senior
- Mary Sunshine - Meadow Roth - WHS junior

The musical is directed by Tish Lyon and assistant director Billy Seger. Christy Johanson is the choreographer with Jonathan Horn as the vocal director, Katy Holub as pit director, and Sue Lewis as tech director. Anita Tebo is accompanying on keyboard.

Johanson said she's excited about the show originally choreographed by the legendary Bob Fosse.

"Chicago is a choreographer's dream show! So much dancing!" Johanson said. "The final number, 'Hot Honey Rag' utilizes Fosse's original choreography, recreated by Ann Reinking for the 1996 revival of *Chicago*, still performing today on Broadway and national tours. The students have risen to the challenge, and we have created some fun dancing."

Opening Night is set for 7 p.m on Friday April 11. Performances also will be held at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m on April 12 and 2 p.m. on April 13. Additional shows are scheduled for the following weekend at 7 p.m. April 18 and 7 p.m April 19. All performances will take place in the Woodstock North High School Performing Arts Center, 300 Raffel Road.

Show tickets are \$10. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at <https://wnhs7470.booktix.net> or on the day of the show at the box office.