

Get your tickets for JCT's staging of 'Yours, Anne'

By Mary Schachtel Wright, artistic director,
Jamestown Community Theatre
 Anne Frank's diary is one of the best-selling books in history and has been translated into 67 languages.

The celebrated account tells of two Jewish families and a mutual acquaintance of theirs who are sequestered away in a cramped attic in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation.

This small but powerful musical tells the same haunting story, but it also includes music that truly will help the audience feel the intensity, the anger, the grief, but also the hope of the occupants living in the secret annex hidden behind the small bookcase. Driven by the enduring faith of a spirited young girl, Anne Frank's heartbreaking but finally uplifting diary awakens

deep emotions with its portrayal of the ability of the human spirit to find hope in the face of terrible unfolding events.

The music is by Michael Cohen with the libretto written by Enid Futterman, and "Yours, Anne" is based on "Anne Frank, the Diary of a Young Girl" and the play by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.

The cast of "Yours, Anne" is, in a word, remarkable. Their talent is decidedly commendable, but it's their interpretation of their roles that makes this play so special. They have genuine love and admiration for their characters, and although the music, played by our gifted and sensitive pianist Janet Grant, is generally melodic, it still is very difficult to master; yet our cast can match illustrious actors who appear on Broadway; that is

except for the times that we surpass them!

One can't miss with a cast such as this: Hannah Cordes as Anne, Matt Bolles as Otto Frank, Jeanne Spinosa as Edith Frank, Becky Brazil as Mrs. Van Dan (and I must add that she also is our fine music director), Terry Horsely as Mr. Van Dan, John Andrews as Mr. Dussell, and Michael Liebhauser as Peter Van Dan. In addition, we have several poets, young students, and singers played by Camille Baker, Allie Brown, Danielle Brown, Erin Brown, Kelsey Donohue, Rashelle DeValerio, and Dana Larkin.

"Yours, Anne" is a Jamestown Community Theatre production, but it will be performed at Central Baptist Church. Dates for the first weekend of the show are Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3, both at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday,

March 4, at 4 p.m. The second weekend performances are Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 11, at 4 p.m.

Dress rehearsal March 1, is free to seniors, 65 and older; tickets must be picked up at a designated time at the Senior Center. For the first time, we also are offering free tickets to students to encourage them to see this play; tickets can be picked up from Melissa Minto at the Teen Center, also at a designated time.

Please note that because of the sensitive material, we urge you only to bring children who have had some exposure to the story through reading, by discussion with you, or by having viewed the film.

General admission tickets are now available for purchase at Baker's Pharmacy and the Secret

Garden in Jamestown, Pleasant Surprise in Newport, and Midnight Sun in Wickford.

Please do not wait until the last minute to buy tickets; there are fewer seats at this location, so we predict a sellout.

I ask you to think of this play not just as a sad story; yes, it is tragic what happened during the Holocaust, but Anne Frank would want you to remember her spirit and her hope, and she would ask you to celebrate your lives, remembering the beauty of life even when it is not there, and she would want you to feel sadness in life as well, as a way of understanding how special and important the world's beauty is for all of us.

Please come see "Yours, Anne"; maybe it is time for all of us to consider the good inside of everyone, and just as Anne Frank believed, maybe then we can find peace.

The Island Classifieds

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