



**COLLEGE OF
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS**
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

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Laugh Out Loud at *Die Fledermaus*

Written by Ashley H Pollock

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Southern Utah University's departments of Music and Theatre Arts & Dance are teaming up to create a hilarious production of *Die Fledermaus*. Performances will be held on March 2, 3, 4, and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Randall L. Jones Theatre. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for Alumni with their card, and \$7 for youth. Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. Tickets are available at the door or at suu.edu/pva.

Henry Ballesteros, Assistant Director, said, "This production is filled with laughter and heart. *Die Fledermaus* has some of the most amazing music that will remind you of a simple era when all that mattered was love and having a good time."

Die Fledermaus is a comedy of mistaken identities, practical jokes, and a masquerade ball all taking place on New Year's Eve. Throughout the opera, the audience will see the true personality of each character. The cast is performing the English rendition of *Die Fledermaus* to assist the audience in understanding the story and to keep up with all of the twists and turns.

Claire Robinson, a sophomore vocal performance major, said, "Preparing for this show has been challenging in its' own ways. Johann Strauss, the composer of *Die Fledermaus*, has written some beautiful music in the opera. However, it can be very difficult. As a young singer I have had to spend countless hours practicing. The translation has proven to be very interesting as well. The original opera is in German. There are pieces of the opera we discussed in order to better understand what we were singing. It's very important to understand what we, the performers, are talking about so the audience can follow along."

Keaton Delmar Johns, a Las Vegas native and junior Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate majoring in Musical Theatre, said, "My favorite part of the rehearsal process has been working with our director, Peter Sham, and our music director, Carol Ann Modesitt. I've worked with Sham before, and he has a way of making the rehearsal room a place for play while still maintaining a professional environment. I am grateful to Modesitt for helping me use good technique and finding my 'opera' sound. This is my first time doing an opera, so I was very intimidated going into vocal rehearsals. She knows exactly how to adjust someone's vocals and produce the correct sound. She is such a master at her craft."

Peter Sham, director of *Die Fledermaus*, said, "One of the highlights for me has been working with gifted choreographer and colleague, Megan Brunsvold. She has found a wonderful way to highlight the talents of both music and theatre majors and create a space which is engaging, dynamic and fun."

Brandon Grayson, a junior at SUU majoring in Musical Theatre Composition and Performance, said, "The community should come to this opera because it is an experience that doesn't happen very often in southern Utah. We are putting on a grand operetta on a grand scale, with a big, live orchestra, lavish sets and costumes, lots of choreography and funny moments; it's going to be a very special experience that should not be missed."

Join in the laughter with us at *Die Fledermaus*. For more information, please visit www.suu.edu/pva.

About the College of Performing and Visual Arts

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, and Dance. The College also offers programs in Theatre Arts, graduate programs in Arts Administration and Music, as well as a Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Music Education and Master of Music in Music Technology graduate degrees. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring nearly 600 majors in the College. Over 1,100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival and SUU's Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

For Calendar Editors: Laugh Out Loud at *Die Fledermaus*

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- Who:** Departments of Music, Department of Theatre Arts & Dance, Southern Utah University
- When:** March 2, 3, 4, and 6, 2017
- Time:** 7:30 PM
- Where:** Randall L. Jones Theatre, Southern Utah University, Beverley Center for the Arts
- Tickets:** \$15 for adults, \$12 for Alumni with their card, and \$7 for youth. Southern Utah University faculty, staff, and students are free with a valid ID card. Faculty and staff IDs are allowed one guest. Tickets are available at the door or at suu.edu/pva.
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