

# GOODSPEED MUSICALS

student

# GUIDE TO THE THEATRE

# GOOD NEWS!

a musical comedy



50th Anniversary

GOODSPEED  
MUSICALS®

The Max Showalter Center for  
Education in Musical Theatre

**GOOD NEWS!**

Goodspeed Opera House  
April 12 - June 22, 2013

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
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# GOOD NEWS!

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# ABOUT THE SHOW

## The Story

### ACT ONE

It's 1927, Tait College's students are gathered on their New England campus to cheer on the football squad as they practice for an upcoming game. The school newspaper, the *Tait Gazette*, claims that Tait can't lose due to the skills of star football team member Tom Marlowe.

With the blow of a whistle, Coach ends practice and explains to the team that they need to play better in order to win. Coach reminds the Tait players about what their priorities should be: 1) football, 2) girls, and 3) studying. The team is released but Coach asks Marlowe to hang back at which time he explains to Marlowe, once again, that he is essential to winning the game. Marlowe happily accepts the responsibility and welcomes the pressure.

Meanwhile, Connie, a studious and dedicated student with no interest in football, is in the observatory with her eye glued to a telescope. Connie is approached by Professor Kenyon who commends Connie for her dedication to her studies. Professor Kenyon also notes that Connie seems to be looking down the wrong way with the telescope—she is peering down at the campus rather than up at the sky. Connie confesses that although she doesn't care about the dance and the football game, she does care for Tom Marlowe. But her affections can only be from afar as Marlowe is dating her cousin, Pat Bingham.

Back on the field, Pooch, the wisecracking trainer for the Tait College football team, frantically shows up at practice. He explains to Coach that Marlowe is failing astronomy. As per the Dean's new policy "any student with a failing grade in one or more classes may not partake in athletics, no exceptions." Coach and Pooch go to the observatory to speak with Professor Kenyon. Seeing them coming, the Professor instantly becomes a nervous wreck and goes off to check her appearance.

When Professor Kenyon returns, she and Coach speak reluctantly at first about Marlowe's situation. We then learn that they have a lot in common – both are alumni of the school, they graduated the same year, and were in a relationship while students at Tait – and after some discussion, they agree that Tom Marlowe can play in the upcoming football game if he passes an astronomy retest.

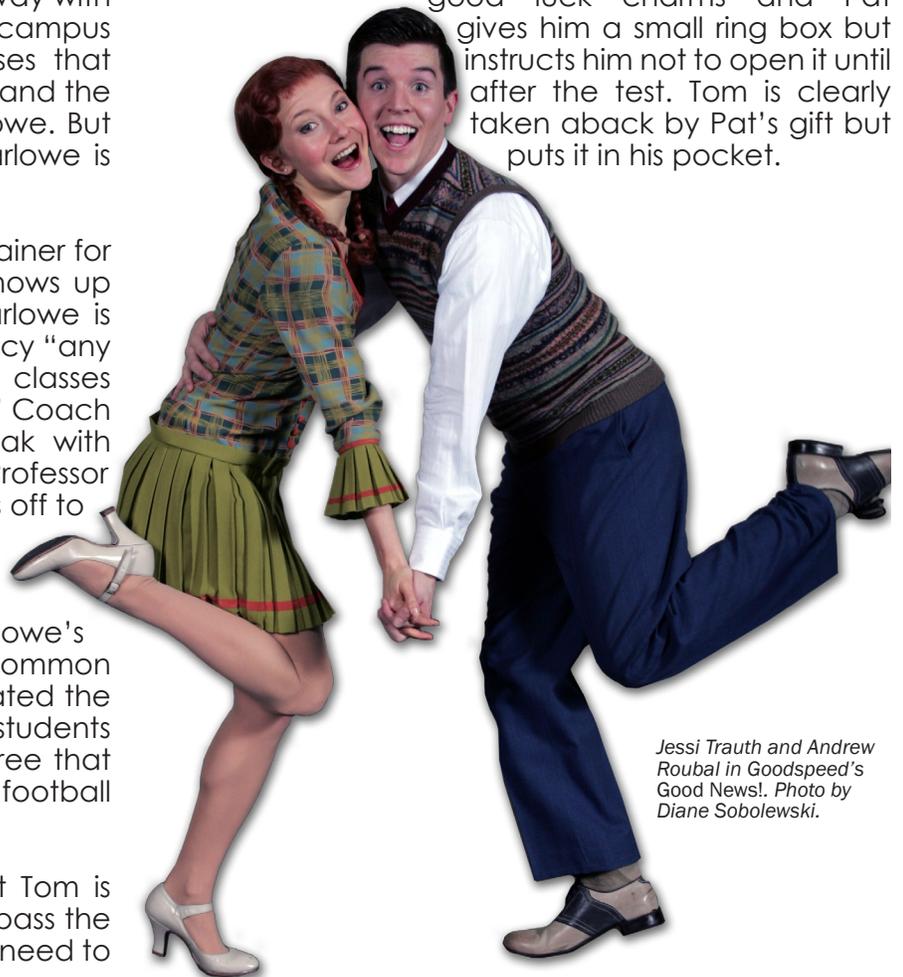
Everyone is overjoyed until they realize that Tom is going to need a great deal of assistance to pass the retest. Pat comes to the conclusion that they need to

get Tom a brainy, whiz-kid tutor and realizes that her cousin, Connie, is the perfect person! At first, Connie declines but once she hears that she will be tutoring Tom Marlowe she agrees.

During their first session, Tom disappoints Connie when he suggests that she should just slip him the answers to the test the next day. After Connie threatens to leave, Tom apologizes and agrees to learn whatever she can teach him.

Meanwhile, to ensure that Tom passes, Coach and Pooch devise a plan to steal the astronomy test from Professor Kenyon. Later that day, Coach successfully distracts the Professor with a poem in which he confesses he still loves her. Meanwhile, Pooch sneaks behind her desk and steals the test. As Pooch exits with the test Coach and Kenyon lock eyes on each other.

The next day, the team and Pat wish Tom the best of luck on his test. His teammates offer him assorted good luck charms and Pat gives him a small ring box but instructs him not to open it until after the test. Tom is clearly taken aback by Pat's gift but puts it in his pocket.



Jessi Trauth and Andrew Roubal in Goodspeed's Good News!. Photo by Diane Sobolewski.

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## The Story

Pat announces that Tom has passed the test and then exclaims to the team and their friends that after Tom leads the Tait Vikings to victory, he is going to propose to her. Tom is perplexed and searches for Connie in the chaos but cannot find her. The crowd lifts Tom and exits joyfully.

### ACT TWO

It's the day of the big game! The Tait Vikings are preparing and the campus has joined together on the quad for an energetic pep rally.

Later, the girls gather at the Pi Beta Phi sorority house to prepare for the evening's events. Tom shows up at the house looking for Pat and immediately following him, Connie arrives to get ready with Flo and Millie. Connie goes with the girls while Pat and Tom walk away to speak privately. Tom expresses his reservations about getting married and Pat convinces him that it is what he always wanted. Then, Professor Kenyon unexpectedly arrives at the house looking for Pat to ask her for advice about a man! Following Kenyon's arrival, Coach shows up at the Pi Beta Phi house looking for his missing football players. As people continue to join the festivities at the Pi Beta Phi house, Tom reveals his cheat sheet from Pooch and confesses to everyone that he can't play because he

cheated on the exam. Kenyon explains that all the answers on his cheat sheet were wrong and that he, in fact, knew all of the correct answers. Kenyon allows Tom to play in the game but leaves disappointed with Coach for encouraging Tom to cheat. Connie leaves as well, disappointed with Tom.

At the game it's halftime and the Tait Vikings are losing. Coach tries to revive his team but is too distracted by what happened with Professor Kenyon. After his underwhelming pep talk, Connie shows up, feeling like Tom's poor playing is her fault. She apologizes to him but he explains that it's not her fault—he is purposely throwing the game for her because if he loses he won't have to marry Pat. Connie explains to Tom that he needs to fight for things that are important to him and that he can't take the easy way out. Subsequently, Tom gets his head back in the game and Tait wins!

At the All-American Ball, Tom gets up in front of the crowd, gives Pat's grandmother's ring back to her, and expresses his true feelings for Connie. Pat surprisingly understands and gives the ring back to Tom. She states "You know Tom...it is her grandmother's ring, too. Go get her." Tom and Connie happily embrace as Coach professes his love for Professor Kenyon and presents her with the game ball.



The cast of Goodspeed's Good News!  
Photo by Diane Sobolewski.

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## The Characters



**TOM MARLOWE:** The star of the Tait College football team. Tom is handsome, likeable, and the big man on campus. The fate of the team falls to Tom, who is the primary reason they ever win. Tom is not as dedicated to his studies as he is to football and he struggles to maintain good grades.

**CONNIE LANE:** An extremely studious and mature student at Tait College. Connie excels at astronomy and is Professor Kenyon's best student. Although she does not have any interest in football, she does have a secret interest in Tom Marlowe, her cousin's boyfriend.

**COACH BILL JOHNSON:** The coach of Tait's football team. He is popular with the students, especially the football team. Coach is a graduate of Tait College and used to play on the team. While a student at Tait, he had a blooming relationship with a girl named Charlie (Charlotte Kenyon) but it went sour. Although he denies it, Coach still has feelings for his former flame.

**PROFESSOR CHARLOTTE KENYON:** Tait College's very first female Astronomy Professor who also attended Tait as a student. She is strong-willed, intelligent, and fair-minded. When Tom Marlowe's participation in an upcoming game is in jeopardy as a result of a failing grade in astronomy, Professor Kenyon provides him an opportunity to retake the test. She had a fling with the current Coach, Bill Johnson, during college and appears to have never gotten over it.

**BABE O'DAY:** A student at Tait College and an avid fan of the football team. Babe is notorious for her ability to take control of any situation and flirt her way through the members of the entire football team.

**BOBBY RANDALL:** The scrawny second-string "benchwarmer" on the football team. Although Babe tries to make her way into Bobby's heart, he doesn't fall for her tricks and pushes her away since his friend, Beef, has feelings for her.

**POOCH KEARNEY:** The wisecracking trainer for the Tait College football team. He is constantly at Coach's side trying to do what is best for the team.

**BEEF SAUNDERS:** A brutish, brawny and masculine member of the football team. He is comical and quirky, but not very bright. Beef has feelings for Babe O'Day and treats her like a perfect lady. However, he finds that his chivalry towards women often goes unappreciated.

**PATRICIA "PAT" BINGHAM:** The girlfriend of Tom Marlowe and cousin of Connie Lane. Pat's assertiveness about what she thinks and wants often pays off for her. She has a habit of making decisions for Tom without consulting him first.

**MILLIE AND FLO:** Two of Pat's friends and sisters in the Pi Beta Phi sorority who have similar aspirations and attitudes as Pat.

**SYLVESTER:** A freshman and underdog at Tait College who is desperate to be a part of the popular group so he joins the ranks of the football team.

**SLATS AND WINDY:** Two players on the Tait College football team who frequently pick on Sylvester.

Chelsea Morgan Stock as Connie in Goodspeed's Good News!. Photo by Diane Sobolewski.

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## The Writers

### DE SYLVA, BROWN & HENDERSON

One of the most successful songwriting teams of the twenties, De Sylva, Brown and Henderson produced a multitude of songs that have become musical standards including "Birth of the Blues," "Black Bottom," "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries," "My Song" and "Sonny Boy." Other Broadway shows with scores by De Sylva, Brown and Henderson include *George White's Scandals*, *Manhattan Mary*, *Hold Everything*, *Follow Through* and *Flying High*. In 1944, their song "Together" was introduced and became one of the ten biggest hits of the year, sixteen years after being published. During the fifties, a movie biography of De Sylva, Brown and Henderson was released and titled *The Best Things in Life Are Free*.



The Songwriter Series

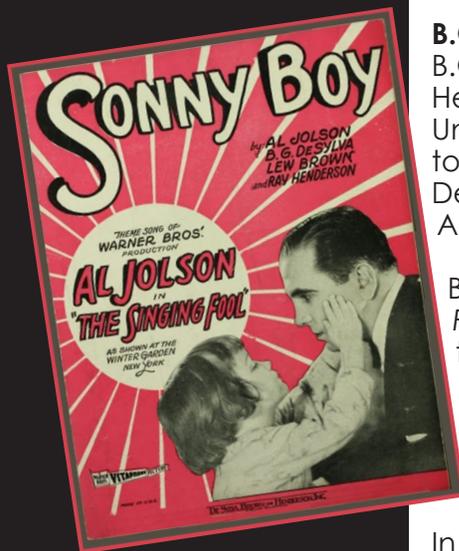


**CLICK BELOW**  
to listen to the songs  
of De Sylva, Brown &  
Henderson

- [Listen to "Birth of the Blues"](#)
- [Listen to "Sonny Boy"](#)
- [Listen to "Black Bottom"](#)



**CLICK HERE** to watch a  
clip from the 1956 movie  
*The Best Things in Life  
Are Free* about De Sylva,  
Brown and Henderson



### B.G. DE SYLVA (Book, Music and Lyrics)

B.G. De Sylva, also known as Buddy, was a composer, author, and publisher. He was born in New York, NY on January 27, 1895. De Sylva graduated from the University of Southern California. Shortly after graduating, De Sylva was introduced to Al Jolson and instantly became interested in his unique style of music. In 1918, De Sylva and Jolson went to New York and began working together on Tin Pan Alley.

Buddy De Sylva wrote songs for many Broadway musicals including *Ziegfeld Follies*, *Sinbad*, *Sally*, *The Perfect Fool* and *The French Doll*. De Sylva also was the producer and co-librettist for Broadway musicals *DuBarry Was A Lady* and *Panama Hattie*. He was the Director of The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) from 1922 - 1930. In 1925, De Sylva joined forces with lyricist Lew Brown and composer Ray Henderson creating the well-known De Sylva, Brown and Henderson songwriting and music publishing team.

In 1930, the team sold their publishing firm and went to Hollywood to work in the motion picture business. They wrote the film scores for *Sunny Side Up*, *The Singing Fool*, and *Just Imagine*. De Sylva also produced many films such as *The Little Colonel*, *Poor Little Rich Girl*, and *Stowaway*. From 1941 through 1944, De Sylva was the Executive Producer for Paramount Pictures.

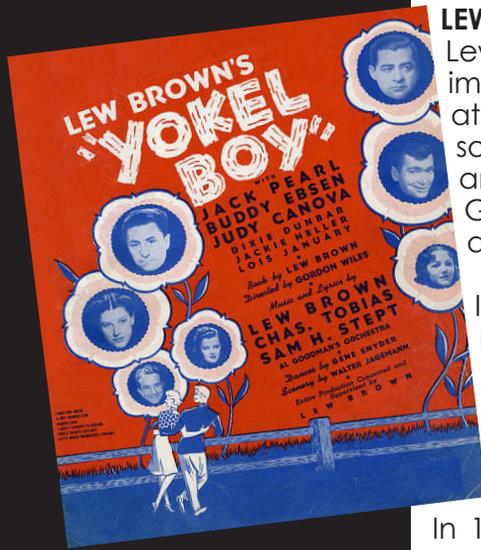
Buddy De Sylva died in Los Angeles, California on July 11, 1950.



**CLICK HERE**  
to learn more about  
B.G. De Sylva

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## The Writers



### LEW BROWN (Music and Lyrics)

Lew Brown was born on December 10, 1893 in Odessa Russia. His family immigrated to Bronx, New York when he was five years old. While a teen, Brown attended DeWitt Clinton High School and began writing parodies of popular songs. Eventually, he also began writing his own original lyrics. In 1912, Brown and his songwriting partner, Albert von Tilzer, wrote the hit "I'm the Lonesome Girl in Town." In 1916, the team wrote another hit, "If You Were the Only Girl," and they continued to write many successful songs in the years to follow.

In 1922, Brown collaborated with pianist and composer Ray Henderson, which resulted in the writing of their first hit, "Georgette." In 1925, B.G. De Sylva joined the team creating one of the most popular songwriting and publishing teams on Tin Pan Alley. De Sylva, Brown and Henderson contributed to several Broadway shows including *Scandals*, *Good News*, *Hold Everything!*, and *Follow Thru*.

In 1929, De Sylva, Brown and Henderson sold their music publishing firm and moved to Hollywood under contract with Fox Studios.

In 1931, Brown and Henderson chose to continue writing together while De Sylva chose to move on and work with other composers. Brown and Henderson produced such works as "Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries" and "The Thrill is Gone." While continuing to work with Henderson, Brown also collaborated with other composers. In 1937, he wrote "That Old Feeling" with composer Sammy Fain. He also produced, directed, and co-wrote the Broadway musical *Yokel Boy*.

Lew Brown died on February 5, 1958 in New York City.

### RAY HENDERSON (Music and Lyrics)

Composer Ray Henderson was born in Buffalo, New York on December 1, 1896. He studied piano and composition at the Chicago Conservatory. After studying at the Conservatory, Henderson moved to New York and began working in music publishing on Tin Pan Alley and as a pianist for vaudeville. Henderson met lyricist, Lew Brown in 1922 and the two teamed up with Buddy De Sylva three years later. Henderson wrote many hit songs with other lyricists. In 1923, he wrote "That Old Gang of Mine" with Mort Dixon and Billy Rose. In 1925 he wrote "Alabama Bound" with De Sylva and "Five Feet Two, Eyes of Blue" with Joe Young and Sam M. Lewis. Later in 1926, he and Dixon wrote "Bye, Bye Blackbird."

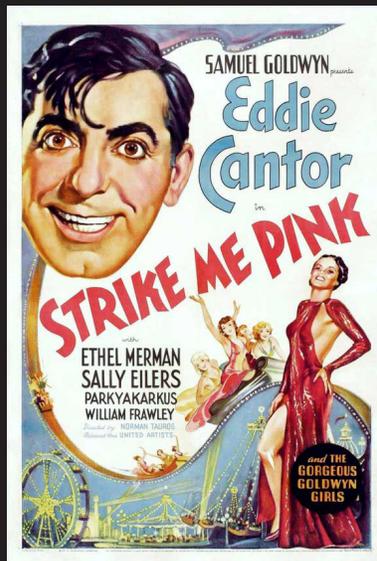
Henderson contributed compositions to several Broadway shows including *Say When*, *Manhattan Mary*, *Hot-Cha*, *Strike Me Pink*, and *Three Cheers*. He also wrote many popular songs including "I'm Sitting on Top of the World," "Red Hot Chicago," "If I Had a Girl Like You," "Animal Crackers in My Soup," and "Without Love."

Ray Henderson died on December 31, 1970 in Greenwich, Connecticut.

### FRANK MANDEL & LAWRENCE SCHWAB (Book)

Frank Mandel was a playwright, producer, director, and lyricist, born in San Francisco, CA. Mandel worked on over 30 productions during his career, but he was best known for his writing and remembered for his work in musical theatre. Several of the productions were a collaborative effort with his long time partner, Laurence Schwab. Schwab was born in Boston and went to Harvard. He was a successful music circus and Broadway producer in the 1920s and '30s before his time in Hollywood. The two wrote and produced *Good News!* in 1927. Other productions of theirs include *The New Moon* (1928) and *Follow Thru* (1929).

 [CLICK HERE](#)  
to learn more about  
Lew Brown



 [CLICK HERE](#)  
to learn more about  
Ray Henderson

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Set Design



Court Watson is a New York City based Set and Costume Designer whose designs have been seen all over the United States and Europe, including The Norma Terris Theatre (*Meet John Doe*). Mr. Watson has been an Assistant Designer on several Broadway shows, including *Guys & Dolls*, *Grease!*, *Lestat*, *Little Women*, *The Coast of Utopia*, *Cry Baby*, *South Pacific*, *Mauritius* and *High Fidelity*. He has been a Guest Designer

on ABC's "All My Children" and "One Life to Live." Mr. Watson's watercolors are in private collections throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, and have been exhibited in New York's Leslie-Lohman Gallery.



The Football Field



The Observatory



The Sorority House

### DESIGN INSPIRATION: 1920s Men's Dorm Room



Tom and Bobby's Dorm Room

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Set Design



### MEET THE DESIGNER: TRACY CHRISTENSEN

Tracy Christensen previously designed *Something's Afoot* and *City of Angels* at Goodspeed. Other recent design credits include *Abundance* (Hartford Stage), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (MUNY), *The Boys from Syracuse* (Shakespeare Theater Company, DC), *Eternal Equinox* (59E59 Street), *Luv* (Guild Hall, East Hampton), *SkippyJon Jones* (Lucille Lortel), *Curtains* (Paper Mill), *Company* (NY Philharmonic), *Souvenir* (Broadway), the new whale and dolphin show *Blue Horizons* (Sea World, Orlando/San Diego), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Chicago's Ravinia Festival starring Patti LuPone), *The Ohmies* (off-Broadway). Ms. Christensen spent seven seasons designing for the Chautauqua Theater Company and is a faculty member at SUNY Purchase for costume design.



### DID YOU KNOW...

In the NFL, football players were not required to wear helmets during the 1920s.

# FOOTBALL IN THE 1920s

In the 1920s the game of football experienced substantial growth. As World War I was ending, veterans who hadn't received the opportunity to attend college or had to leave college early were coming back home and seeking out educational opportunities. Enrollment in colleges increased as did participation in college sports. College teams were suddenly gaining fit, well-trained veterans who, more often than not, turned the previously mediocre teams into winning ones.

## EQUIPMENT TIMELINE

Football equipment was extremely limited in the 1920s. Here is a short timeline that depicts the development of football gear from the 1920s to today.

### 1920

The first manufactured helmets were introduced to football.



### 1930

Foam padding was added to the shoulder pads.



### 1934

The first molded leather helmet was used.



### 1939

Riddell Sports Equipment Company designed and began selling the first plastic helmet. Also, special shoes were designed for football players. They were heavy high-tops made from leather.



### 1940

The chinstrap was invented, which was made of leather, attached to the bottom of the helmet, and was designed to keep a player's helmet on his head when he was hit by another player.



### 1943

Helmets became a mandatory piece of equipment in football.

### 1945

Football shoes were now low-tops and made to be light weight. They also had molded rubber cleats on the bottom of the shoe to help with traction and speed.



### 1949

Plastic helmets were adopted by the National Football League. The helmets had a plastic shell and had leather padding on the inside of them.



## THE RISE OF THE FOOTBALL HERO

Since the game of football had become the center of America's sports craze during the 1920s, the players involved in the sport were viewed as socially prominent. In publications from the time, players were illustrated as the epitome of youthful masculinity. They were often idolized and the prime focus of female attraction. When females were featured in these depictions, they were usually very beautiful and portrayed as followers and fans of the virile players. Similarly, football players were shown living a glamorous life filled with youthful hijinks, pep-rallies, and adoring flappers. As a result, the image of the football hero was born.

## FOOTBALL LINGO

Throughout *Good News!*, you will hear many football terms. Here is a list of some terms that may help you understand the "football lingo" that the characters use. Read through these vocabulary words and then watch a football game (archived games on NFL.com). As you are watching, see how many of these words you can pick out.

**Audible:** when the quarterback calls a new play and formation to adjust to the opposite team's formation

**Benchwarmer:** a substitute athlete who usually plays when a replacement is needed. For example, Bobby fits the definition of a benchwarmer because he is only asked to play after Beef is injured.

**Blitz:** a sudden charge from the defensive team to the quarterback after the ball has been snapped

**End Zone:** the area at each end of a football field where the ball must pass for a team to score

**Execution:** when football players take a proposed play and make it happen on the field

**Gridiron:** an informal name for American football

**Huddle:** when members of a football team gather together to plan/discuss the next part of the game

**Hustle:** to move quickly, hurriedly, and energetically

**Interception:** when a defensive player catches a ball intended to be caught by an offensive player. An interception results in a change of possession of the ball from the offense to the defense.

# FOOTBALL IN THE 1920s

## 1955

The first single-bar facemask began being used.



## 1960s

Shoulder pads were no longer made with fibershell instead of foam padding, felt wool, and leather. Eventually, plastic was added to the fibershell pads as well.



## 1962

The first plastic helmet with a double-bar facemask was introduced.

## 1968

Astroturf was introduced to the sport in 1966. It quickly became the standard for all football fields. As a result, in 1969, the first Astroturf-ready cleats were introduced to football.



## 1970s

Shoulder pads were now universally made from plastic.

## 1975

Plastic helmets were now required to have full face masks.



## 1982

Hip pads were required and needed to be covered by the outer uniform.



## 1983

All mandatory player equipment must be designed and made by a professional football equipment manufacturer. Equipment cannot be altered from its original state unless directed to be changed by the team physician.

## TODAY

The NFL has dedicated more than \$100 million towards researching new types of equipment to prevent injuries and concussion-related accidents.



**Interference:** when a player illegally blocks the football from a member of the opposite team

**Single Wing Formation:** a popular formation from football's first 50 years but is scarcely used today. Single wing formation has many variations but the most common use was when the quarterback lined up a few yards off center with running backs on either side of him to keep players from the opposite team from knocking him to the ground.

**Outflank:** to maneuver around the opposite team's strategies and players

**Quarterback:** the player who is positioned directly behind the offensive line and is considered to be the leader and most crucial player on a football

**Safety:** when the team with offensive possession of the ball has backward motion into their end zone and is brought down. The defensive team is awarded two points and possession of the ball after a free kick by the offensive team.

**Snap:** when the ball is passed back or handed to the quarterback, the holder, or the punter at the beginning of a play

**Tackle:** a way of stopping the player carrying the ball from getting closer to the end zone, usually by knocking the player to the ground

**Touchdown:** while the ball is in possession, a team scores when they advance the football into the opponent's end zone

### WHAT IS THAT???

**Fibershell helmet:** a football helmet comprised of an inflexible shell of fiber shaped to conform to the head. There was also an outer layer of felt covering the ears and an inner layer of felt to help secure the helmet.

**Astroturf:** an artificial grass surface.

## DID YOU KNOW...

# SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES IN THE 1920S

**Coeds** are students who attend an educational institution that enrolls both males and females.

The term "sorority" comes from the Latin word "soror," meaning sister.

The term "fraternity" comes from the Latin word "frater," meaning brother.



Good News! follows the story of the **coeds** attending Tait College during the 1920s. As World War I was coming to a close and troops were coming home, college enrollment increased. It was with this growth that sororities and fraternities became more common in American colleges.

### FRATERNITY AND SORORITY ORIGINS

In 1776, five men gathered to create the first recognized Greek fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, at William and Mary College in Virginia. It was during the early stages, the late 1700s-early 1800s, when fraternities started to form, that colleges enforced classes in the Greek language as an academic requirement for students. It is said that the Greek influence for fraternities and sororities came from this requirement. Although today's fraternities are much different from the "secret society" model from the early years, Phi Beta Kappa set the precedent for many of the fraternities that exist today.

Years later, when women were admitted into college, they wanted to start social groups of their own. In 1870, a group of women started one of the first "women's fraternities" at DePauw University in Indiana. Later named Kappa Alpha Theta, this group was recognized as the first Greek-lettered women's fraternity. In 1874, a Latin Professor for Syracuse University and the faculty advisor for the school's chapter of Gamma Phi Beta thought the term "fraternity" misrepresented the group of young ladies and introduced the term sorority.

### 1920s SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES

As society was changing in the 20s, so was the United States economy. Universities were no longer able to afford housing for all of their students. With the growth in enrollment, American fraternities and sororities were often forced to independently acquire housing for their members. The purchase of off-campus fraternity/sorority houses led to a decrease in university involvement in Greek life. Since fraternities and sororities were now managing their own homes and properties, universities were not responsible for the residential, and often social details of the participants. Universities were becoming solely concerned with the academic and philanthropic achievement of the campus' fraternities and sororities.

In the 1920s, fraternities and sororities became a hub for extra-curricular activities and socialization. As years passed, they grew more popular but there wasn't space for all the students that were interested. Members had to be selective in who they accepted into their organizations so an initiation process was created. The process began with recruiting "pledges" or people who wanted to join. Once recruited, the members of the group would begin a customized initiation process.

### HAZING

Currently, it is illegal for fraternity and sorority initiations to incorporate hazing. Modern day hazing is characterized as intentional embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule that is used as a form of introduction and initiation to a group.

Hazing originated long before the 1920s and, in years prior, was frequently used as an induction tool by the armed forces. The basic idea was that newcomers were uneducated and inexperienced in the daily activities of a fraternal group and thus needed to be "polished" before they could become regular members of the group.



The founders of Kappa Alpha Theta

# SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES IN THE 1920S

As part of the initiation process, leaders would assign members who had been active with the group for extended periods of time to expose newcomers to practical jokes, physical abuse, and other humiliating and dangerous acts that would be seen as "rites of passage." This mentality and form of bullying carried on for generations, and, by the 1920s, was utilized by fraternities and sororities.

## ΠΒΦ

Pi Beta Phi is an international sorority that still exists today. As stated on its website, "The mission of Pi Beta Phi is to promote friendship, develop women of intellect and integrity, cultivate leadership potential and enrich lives through community service." Here are a few of the *Good News!* girls who are members of Pi Beta Phi:

## LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SISTERS OF PI BETA PHI!



PAT



BABE



SORORITY SISTERS

A TROPE is a common or overused theme

## FAMOUS COLLEGE RELATIONSHIPS

Audiences have been exposed to many characters and people who meet their significant other in college.

Just like Tom and Connie, some of them take the "big step" and get married! Here is a list of examples. Can you think of more?

Prince William  
and  
Kate Middleton

Barack and Michelle  
Obama

Albert Einstein  
and  
Mileva Maric

Mark Zuckerberg  
and  
Priscilla Chan

# PRESENTING A TIMELESS TROPE

When the story begins, Tom and Connie are part of two separate worlds. Tom is the quarterback and star of the football team while Connie spends most of her time up in Tait College's observatory studying science and constellations. When Tom's participation in an upcoming football game is jeopardized by a failing astronomy grade, Connie agrees to be his tutor. In the process, Tom breaks off his engagement to his popular and beautiful fiancée and unexpectedly falls for the new additions to his life—astronomy and the nerdy girl, Connie!

*Good News!* developed into the most acclaimed musical in a new wave of romantic musical comedies set on college campuses. When the De Sylva, Brown & Henderson trio collaborated on this quintessential lighthearted boy-meets-girl story, they didn't realize that they were substantially contributing to a timeless and repeated plot structure revolving around a popular and hunky jock falling in love with a nerdy girl—a trope that is still used today.

Below are some examples of this trope with which you may be familiar. As you read through these examples, discuss the similarities and differences among each of the stories.

***She's All That*:** Zach Siler, the most popular boy in school, is dumped by his similarly popular girlfriend. While he tries to move on from his messy break up, Zach accepts a bet from his best friend that he can take Laney Boggs, the quintessential school nerd, to prom and get her voted as prom queen.

***Grease*:** During a visit to the United States, wholesome and innocent Sandy Olson meets Danny Zuko on a beach in California. The two instantly fall into a summer romance but it's cut short when the summer comes to an end and Sandy must go back to Australia. Her parents, however, decide that the family should stay in the United States and Sandy starts attending a new school—the same school as Danny Zuko. Danny, however, has a "cool guy" reputation to maintain at school and proves to be a different

person than the guy Sandy met at the beach. Sandy expresses that she never wants to speak to Danny again but he is determined to win her back.



***Sixteen Candles*:** Samantha's sixteenth birthday is quickly approaching but is forgotten by her family because of her sister's upcoming wedding. Meanwhile, Samantha fights against her nerdy reputation and tries to avoid Ted, a dorky guy who adores her, because she has feelings for the most popular boy in school, Jake Ryan.

***Glee*:** Rachel Berry joins the McKinley High School Glee Club to begin her rise as a famous performer. Once she joins, she meets Finn Hudson, star of the football team and most popular boy in school. Finn decides to join the glee club and breaks up with his star-cheerleader girlfriend, Quinn, so he can date Rachel.

***Hairspray*:** Tracy Turnblad, an outcast teenager, watches the "Corny Collins Show," a locally broadcast dance show, every day after school. Her favorite dancer and dreamy crush is Link Larkin, who attends the same high school as Tracy and is the most popular boy in school. When Tracy auditions for the "Corny Collins Show" and makes it, Link Larkin goes from being a dream to a reality.



## WHAT IS THAT???

**Roaring Twenties:** the decade before the Stock Market Crash of 1929. This was a time of optimism, wealth, and prosperity

**The Great Crash:** in 1929, the day when the stock market became very unstable and the price of stocks on the New York Stock Exchange fell quickly and drastically. The Great Crash was on October 29, 1929, a day known as "Black Tuesday."

**Victorian:** moral standards, attitudes, and conduct that was typical during the age of Queen Victoria, especially when considered prudish, stuffy, or hypocritical.

**Prohibition:** a historical period from 1922 to 1933 when the manufacturing, sale, and consumption of alcohol was illegal.

**Flapper:** a woman who rebelled against conventional standards of behavior through expression in her appearance, whereabouts, and values.

**Bob:** a short haircut for women that was about chin-length.

**Jazz Age:** a historical period from roughly 1918 through 1929 that is characterized by the development of jazz music.

# THE ROARING 20S YOUTH IN SOCIETY

## GOOD NEWS! AND THE ROARING TWENTIES

*Good News!* is set at a time when the United States was experiencing many changes. With the end of World War I and the prosperous economic period just before the **Stock Market Crash** in 1929, young people in the United States were exploring a new lifestyle and time period.

## YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 1920S

During the Roaring Twenties, young people were experiencing drastic cultural changes and found that many pre-war values and customs were out-of-date and irrelevant for the new times. As a result, young people began rebelling against societal norms and expectations that were enforced on them from their parent's generation.

## YOUNG WOMEN

Young women of the twenties were instrumental in changing the morals and values of their time. Straying away from **Victorian** morals, young women were smoking—something only men had done in previous years—and drinking alcohol which was illegal due to **Prohibition**.

In an effort to be more modern, young women began liberating themselves by altering their appearance.

**Flappers** were the epitome of modern fashion; they shortened their skirts, rid themselves of restrictive corsets, and **bobbed** their hair. Young women chose shorter, looser and boxier clothing that would allow them to freely move to the new, energetic dances of the **Jazz Age**.

## YOUNG MEN

In the early 1900s, most young men were not enrolled in high school because they had been drafted into World War I. In the early 1920s however, young men were coming home from the war and looking for their next step. As a result, enrollment in colleges began to increase. Similarly, those who didn't choose college were looking for work.



Young men followed the latest fads just like flappers. For females, the twenties were about liberation from social norms. For young men, the decade was about coming home and developing a new life. It was during this time that young men used their strength from the physical demands of the war and created a growing interest in sports. College and professional sports teams were the newest fad and young men were often either sitting on the stands to cheer for their favorite teams or playing on a team.



# RESOURCES

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## **FOOTBALL**

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Schmidt, Raymond. Shaping College Football: The Transformation of an American Sport, 1919-1930. New York: Syracuse University Press. 2007.

Watterson, John Sayle. College Football: History, Spectacle, Controversy. Maryland: The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2000.

## **FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES AND YOUTH IN THE '20S**

Drowne, Kathleen Morgan and Huber, Patrick. Nineteen Twenties. Connecticut: Greenwood Press. 2004.

Hansen, Mary Ellen. Go! Fight! Win!: Cheerleading in American Culture. Bowling Green State University Popular Press. 1995.

Jones, Betty Mullins. History of Fraternity and Sorority Life: The American Fraternity. University of Texas Arlington: Division of Student Affairs.

## **GOOD NEWS!, PRESENTING A TIMELESS TROPE, AND THE WRITERS**

Green, Stanley. The World of Musical Comedy: The Story of the American Musical Stage. California: A.S. Barnes & Co. 1980.

Hischak, Thomas S. Boy Loses Girl: Broadway's Librettists. Maryland: Scarecrow Press, Inc. 2002.

Jones, John Bush. Our Musicals, Ourselves: A Social History of the American Musical Theatre. New Hampshire: University Press of New England: 2003.

Laufe, Abe. Broadway's Greatest Musicals. New York: Funk and Wagnalls. 1977.

Maloney, Alison. Bright Young Things: A Modern Guide to the Roaring Twenties. New York: Potter Style; a division of Random House, Inc. 2012.

# How to Be an Awesome Audience Member

Seeing a musical at the Goodspeed Opera House is a unique and exciting experience. All the members of the production, both cast and crew, work hard to give you a great show. As an audience member, you also have an important job. You must help the performers give their best performance possible. You can do this by practicing these rules of theater etiquette:

- Do laugh when the performance is funny.
- Do applaud when the performance is over. Applause is how you say “Thank you” to the performer. The actors will bow as you applaud. That is how they say “Thank you for coming.”
- Do stand and applaud if you thought the show was outstanding.
- Don’t forget to turn off your cell phone. A ringing or buzzing phone can be very distracting. It can also be embarrassing for you if it is your phone that is disrupting the show!
- Don’t text during the performance.
- Make sure to visit the restroom before the production begins.
- Don’t speak or whisper during the performance...whispering is still speaking, so only in an emergency should whispering occur.
- Remember that the overture (introductory music) in musical theatre is part of the performance, so remain silent when the show begins.
- Don’t take pictures during the performance. It can be very distracting to the actors and it can result in an accident.
- Don’t put your feet up on the seats or kick the seat in front of you.
- Do sit ONLY when your seat is in the folded down position.
- Do remain in your seat for the entire performance. If you must leave, exit during intermission. In an emergency, calmly walk toward the nearest exit.



## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOODSPEED'S EXCITING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN 2013 & 2014!

### **AUDITION INTENSIVE** • Aug 2 - 4, 2013

Goodspeed's Audition Intensive is a dynamic three-day program designed to prepare the next generation of Broadway hopefuls for the all-important college entrance audition process. High school Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will hone their audition skills and learn tricks of the trade from industry professionals.

### **MUSICAL THEATRE DANCE INTENSIVE** • Aug 4 - 11, 2013

Calling all up-and-coming hoofers! If you can't help but move to the rhythms of Broadway and you want to be cast in musicals, this is the workshop for you! Goodspeed's Dance Intensive is designed as a musical theatre dance boot camp for college age performers and young professionals. Each day will include sessions focused on preparing dancers for musical theatre auditions and the week will culminate with several mock auditions in front of industry professionals.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES** • Oct 26 & Dec 14, 2013

#### **Directing a High School Production**

Earn your CEU Credits with Goodspeed! This seminar series designed especially for teachers will address the challenges that arise in directing high school productions. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to receive individualized support, expert advice, and diverse perspectives from educational, community, and professional theatre practitioners.

### **INTRODUCTION TO SCENIC PAINTING INTENSIVE** • Jan 20 - 24, 2014

Bring out your inner artist and learn from the best scenic painters in the industry! During this six-day intensive introductory program, participants will learn to create textured surfaces using a variety of scenic painting techniques and begin to master skills such as cartooning, color mixing, squaring up, drop layout, and wood graining.

### **INTERNSHIP & APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

Goodspeed's Administrative Internship and Technical Apprenticeship programs serve as a training ground for aspiring theatre professionals by providing experiential learning, networking opportunities, regular seminars taught by staff members, and bimonthly meetings with members of the senior staff.

### **OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM**

Ever wonder what it would be like to be part of the rehearsal process for a Goodspeed show? Well, now's your chance! This tuition-based program will offer young professionals and students invaluable firsthand experience that can't be taught in a classroom. The Associate Program will allow talented young theatre artists to work alongside Goodspeed's Director, Choreographer, or Music Director on a Goodspeed Opera House or Norma Terris production.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
[www.goodspeed.org/education-library](http://www.goodspeed.org/education-library)**