



DIRECTOR'S VISION BY CHRISTOPHER GATELLI

I have been involved with *Radio Girl* for two years. We have been through a few different processes, and this will be our very first time putting it up on stage. We have read the piece aloud with actors a few times and have done presentations at music stands, but I'm so happy we are here at Goodspeed, so we can finally bring it to life on stage. This will be my sixth time working at Goodspeed and it is truly one of my favorite places to work in the country.

When we were told we were able to do *Radio Girl* here, I was thrilled. I love working at The Norma Terris Theatre and that you really get to have an old-fashioned try-out here. I love that we get to bring this show to audiences who are familiar with seeing things in the midst of a process. Being that this is the first time we are doing the show on stage, I wanted to make sure that we focused on the story and music, and make sure that they both are strong. I feel so many times that when a show is so quick to get to "the next level," be it Broadway or tour, they miss the important stages of starting small and making sure the show works first before applying all of the bells and whistles. Here, we get to take the time to work on the show itself, and being at Goodspeed, still manage to get some bells and whistles.

My hope is that the audiences will relate to the show for several different reasons. Many people are familiar with *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*,

which our show is based on, and have a strong connection to it. Either they saw it originally or grew up with it. It is a wonderful movie (one of the top 10 films of 1938) and one that seems to have been passed down from generation to generation. I'm happy that we can expose new audiences to this great story through our musical. I think it's also topical at the moment. With all of the reality shows on television, everyone has a newfound interest in small town people making good. Someone who has humble beginnings who manages to step forward and succeed, no matter what their background or history, and all because of their true talent, abilities, and, most importantly, spirit. This show takes place in the late 1930s, but we can see many similarities with today's world. We tried to find a nice balance for the show so that it has enough of a twist for a contemporary audience to find just as much, if not more, to love than the original.

I feel extraordinarily lucky to have our wonderful cast here with us. We couldn't have found a more terrific group, especially our young female ensemble who are all from Connecticut and friends of Goodspeed.

Again, I feel very lucky to be here as we bring our show to life and welcome thoughts from the supportive and experienced Norma Terris audience members.