

PRESS RELEASE

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THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE MAKES ITS BUCKS COUNTY PLAYHOUSE DEBUT BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2007



**BUCKS COUNTY
PLAYHOUSE**
THE STATE THEATRE OF PENNSYLVANIA

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The Bucks County Playhouse brings in its first debut for the 2007 Season when *Thoroughly Modern Millie* comes to the stage for a three week run. Set to begin on Wednesday, July 25, musical comedy continues through Sunday, August 12, 2007.

Thoroughly Modern Millie tells the story of Millie Dillmount, a fearless young lady fresh from Salina, Kansas, determined to experience life in New York City in the rip-roaring Twenties. With high spirits and wearing one of those new high hemlines, she arrives in New York to test the "modern" ideas she had been reading about back in Kansas and sets out to pursue her dream of becoming "thoroughly modern" and marrying for money instead of love. She meets and is attracted to poor, fun-loving Jimmy but goes to work for pompous Mr. Trevor Graydon with every intention of marrying him. When not typing up a storm at the Sincere Trust Insurance Company, Millie befriends her fellow residents at a hotel for aspiring actresses.

In the role of Millie is Anne Barr. Anne made her Bucks County Playhouse debut last season playing the leading roles of Amneris in *Aida* and Ellen in *Miss Saigon*. She just finished a critically acclaimed run as Polly Baker in this season's Playhouse production of *Crazy for You*. **In the role of Millie's love interest, Jimmy, is Peter Martino.** Audiences have seen Peter in a variety of roles over the past few Playhouse seasons. Peter has performed in past productions of *The Graduate* as Benjamin Braddock, *The Full Monty* as Ethan Girard and most recently as the villainous Lank Hawkins in *Crazy for You*. ***Thoroughly Modern Millie* will be directed and choreographed by Playhouse Artistic Director, Stephen Casey.** Now in his 10th season as Artistic Director, Stephen just finished directing *Crazy For You* and has directed and choreographed some of the Playhouse's most critically acclaimed productions, including *Chicago*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *A Chorus Line*, to name a few.

The Bucks County Playhouse Box Office is now fully ONLINE. Tickets can be purchased by going to the Bucks County Playhouse web site at www.buckscountyplyhouse.com.

The Bucks County Playhouse production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* runs from Wednesday, July 25 through Sunday, August 12, 2007. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 2 PM and 8 PM, Friday at 8 PM, Saturday at 4 PM and 8 PM and Sunday at 2 PM. Ticket prices are \$23.00 to \$25.00. **A "Day of Show" discount is available to students ages 21 and under and all active military.** Discounts are available day of only with valid identification. **For information and reservations, call the Box Office at 215-862-2041. The Bucks County Playhouse is located at 70 South Main Street in historic New Hope, Pennsylvania.**

A Brief History of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* . . .

The first presentation of a musical version of ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** was 1996, at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre festival of new works. At that point, the score was by Dick Scanlan and the late Richard Morris. Scanlan had worked tirelessly to convince Morris, the author of the original movie screenplay, to adapt ***Millie*** for the stage, and Morris had finally agreed. The first version of the musical used none of the music from the 1967 Julie Andrews / Carol Channing film. The first presentation featured Darcy Roberts, Kim Crosby and Priscilla Lopez.

In early 1999, as the show continued to develop, it was announced that composer Jeanine Tesori would compose additional music for the show, which would now incorporate some of the most popular songs from the film. Later that year, Kristin Chenoweth, fresh off her Tony win for *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, starred in an industry reading of the show, but eventually backed out of the project after landing a television series.

In the summer of 2000, rehearsals began for an out-of-town tryout at the La Jolla Playhouse in California. The cast featured Erin Dilly as Millie, Tonya Pinkins as Muzzy, Pat Carroll as Mrs. Meers and Marc Kudisch as Trevor Graydon. However, just days before the first preview, Erin Dilly was replaced by a then unknown Sutton Foster. The show officially opened in La Jolla on October 22, 2000, and the reviews were overwhelmingly positive. The show extended its run several times due to popular demand.

Due to the lack of an appropriate theater being available in New York, the show's producers postponed ***Millie's*** arrival on Broadway. Finally, in January 2002, more than a year after the La Jolla run, rehearsals for the production of ***Millie*** began. Sutton Foster and Marc Kudisch remained with the show and were joined by Sheryl Lee Ralph, Harriet Harris and Gavin Creel. On April 18, 2002, ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** officially opened at the Marquis Theater. The show went on to garner 12 Drama Desk nominations and 11 Tony Award nominations, becoming the most honored show of that season. At the Tony Award ceremony, ***Millie*** took home the coveted Best Musical prize. Sutton Foster and Harriet Harris were also winners, along with choreographer Rob Ashford, costume designer Martin Pakledinaz and orchestrators Douglas Besterman and Ralph Burns.

In July 2003, a national tour of ***Millie*** began in Kansas City, and later that year crossed the pond and opened at London's Shaftesbury Theatre. Meanwhile, back on Broadway, some high profile names joined the cast, including Designing Women's Dixie Carter and Delta Burke. During the last two weeks of the show's run, Harriet Harris returned to her Tony-winning role. ***Millie*** closed on Broadway on June 20th, 2004, after more than two years and 900 performances.

Thoroughly Modern Millie
Fact Sheet

WHAT: The Bucks County Playhouse production of ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** tells the story of Millie Dillmount, a fearless young lady fresh from Salina, Kansas, determined to experience life in New York City in the rip-roaring Twenties. With high spirits and wearing one of those new high hemlines, she arrives in New York to test the “modern” ideas she had been reading about back in Kansas and sets out to pursue her dream of becoming “thoroughly modern” and marrying for money instead of love. Stephen Casey directs and choreographs this musical comedy.

WHERE: The Bucks County Playhouse, 70 South Main Street, New Hope, Pennsylvania

WHO: Direction and Choreography by **STEPHEN CASEY**
Musical Direction by **FRED VAN DOREN**
Scenic Design by **PETER MARTINO**
Costume Design by **LINDA BEE-STOCKTON**
Lighting Design by **CHRIS HETHERINGTON**
Sound Design by **KEEAN RUANNE**

CAST:
(in order of appearance)

Millie Dillmount	ANNE BARR
Jimmy Smith	PETER MARTINO
Ruth	NICOLE D'ANGELO
Gloria	HEATHER MORRIS
Rita	CHIARA TRENTALANGE
Alice	KATHERINE WHITMAN
Cora	MOTOKO MIYAMA
Lucille	SHARON RUDDA
Ethel Peas/Dorothy Parker	HEIDI GIBERSON
Mrs. Meers	LAUREN K. BRADER
Miss Dorothy Brown	MICHELLE THOMPSON
Ching Ho	DAMIAN BARTOLACCI
Bun Foo	JORDAN BRENNAN
Miss Flannery	BLAKE BARBICHE
Mr. Trevor Graydon	JIM LYNCH
Muzzy van Hossmere	JILLIAN PIRTLE
Male Ensemble	ADAM BELL
	JORDAN BRENNAN
	RON CARLOS
	JARED MANCUSO
	JOE NATICCHIONE
	ROBERT PARKISON

TICKETS: \$23.00 to \$25.00. Box Office phone is (215) 862-2041. Online at www.buckscountyplayhouse.com

WHEN: ***Thoroughly Modern Millie***
July 25 thru August 12, 2007

OPENING PERFORMANCE: Wednesday, July 25 at 2 PM

Performances: Wednesday thru Saturday at 8 PM
Saturday at 4 PM

Matinees: Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday at 2 PM

CLOSING PERFORMANCE: Sunday, August 12, 2007 at 2 PM