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THE MORNING CALL

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'Guys and Dolls' at Bucks Playhouse

By Daniel Friedman

The classic Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls," running through Aug. 12 at Bucks County Playhouse, is the largest physical production to grace the playhouse stage since it reopened in 2012.

Based on short stories and characters by Damon Runyon, "Guys and Dolls" has music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. "Guys and Dolls" is directed by Tony nominee Hunter Foster ("Clue: On Stage" and "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story") and choreographed by Jeremy Dumont. The musical premiered in 1950 when it won the Tony for Best Musical and went on to run for more than 1,200 performances. A star-studded film adaptation in 1955 starred Vivian Blaine, Marlon Brando, Jean Simmons and Frank Sinatra.

"'Guys and Dolls' is one of the most celebrated musical comedies of Broadway's golden age. It seems fitting that such an iconic show should be produced on one of America's most storied stages," says producer Stephen Kocis. "Our audiences have told us they want to see more classic American musicals at Bucks County Playhouse."

Set in Depression-era Times Square, the musical tells overlapping stories of high-roller Sky Masterson, who falls in love with mission worker Sarah Brown, and notorious gambler Nathan Detroit, engaged for 14 years to Miss Adelaide, a headliner at the Hot Box Club.

Nathan runs a famous floating crap game, and is on a quest for a safe place for the game as Adelaide continues her quest to convince him to marry her. Meanwhile, Sarah, mistakenly believing that Sky set up an illegal game at the mission, tries to fight against her affections for him. Loesser's brassy score includes classic songs, including "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat" and "Luck Be a Lady."

The cast is led by Elena Shaddow ("The Bridges of Madison County," "The Visit") as Sarah Brown, Clarke Thorell ("Hairspray," "Annie," "The Front Page") as Sky Masterson, Steve Rosen ("Monty Python's Spamalot," Broadway's "Guys and Dolls") as Nathan Detroit and Lesli Margherita ("Matilda," "Dames at Sea" and Olivier Award Winner for "Zorro") as Miss Adelaide.

"Guys & Dolls," Tuesday through Sunday, through Aug. 12, Bucks County Playhouse, 70 S. Main St., New Hope. Tickets: \$40-\$75. 215-862-2121 www.bcptheater.org.