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## The Philadelphia Tribune

# 'Guys and Dolls' a good fit for Chicago native

- Rita Charleston Tribune Correspondent



Darius de Haas

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Born in Chicago and raised in a musical family — his father is bassist Eddie de Haas and his mother Geraldine was one of the Bey sisters of the musical trio Andy and The Bey Sisters — Darius de Haas said music was always something he wanted to embrace.

And so he has. With a wide range of stage, film and TV appearances to his credit, this singer-actor can currently be seen in the classic Broadway musical “Guys and Dolls” at the Bucks County Playhouse through Aug. 12.

In the show, based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon, de Haas plays Nicely Nicely Johnson, a simple guy with a happy nature. A gambler himself and someone who helps run a gambling circuit, his main job is to work full-time for notorious gambler Nathan Detroit.

“There are several challenges I face in doing this show” de Haas confesses. “For starters, I haven’t done a classical golden age musical in 20 years. The last one was ‘Carousel.’ Also the style is very specific, the

language is very specific and the comic timing is very challenging. Plus, we only had 12 or 13 days to get the show up and running. It's a really big show to do so much in such a short time. But it's a great, well-structured show, and the rewards have been fantastic."

According to de Haas, even after so many years, audiences still enjoy this timeless music. "It's one of the classics with a great score. No matter who you are, the songs continue to resonate with people everywhere."

Some of those unforgettable songs include "If I Were A Bell," "I've Never Been In Love Before" and the one de Haas himself gets to belt out: "Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat."

A multifaceted performer, de Haas' stature as a solo artist was launched when he made his Carnegie Hall debut with the Cincinnati Pops. Known for his soaring voice, he made his Broadway debut in "Kiss of the Spiderwoman," followed by the revival of "Carousel," "Rent," "Shuffle Along," and the list goes on and on. His musical abilities and range in popular music, jazz, and "The Great American Songbook" have established him as a performer in a variety of settings.

When he's not singing, he admits he loves to act, and often combines the two. He is an Obie-Award winning actor for his performance in "Running Man." He's also appeared in the first national tour of "Once On This Island," "Jesus Christ Superstar," Cain in the musical "Children of Eden," and more.

Some of his TV appearances include "My Favorite Broadway: The Love Songs," "The View," and "The Today Show." His voice can also be heard on the soundtracks of the films "Anastasia" and "Chicago."

"I consider myself very fortunate. For me, there's nothing like the energy I'm able to communicate with the audience, hopefully evoking memories and positive emotions," de Haas said. "There's nothing like music, which is such a strong communicator, and very, very personal."

For times and ticket information, call (215) 862-2121.