

LIFE

THEATER

University of Dayton presents 'Die Fledermaus'

By Russell Florence Jr.
Contributing writer

The University of Dayton presents Johann Strauss, Jr.'s 1874 revenge-driven comic operetta "Die Fledermaus" beginning Nov. 4 inside the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre.

Sung in English and featuring a libretto by Carl Haffner and Richard Genée, the farcical, lighthearted work concerns the scheming Dr. Falke, a renown Viennese psychiatrist who attempts to get back at his friend Gabriel von Eisenstein, the philandering husband of Rosalinde, a celebrated stage actress. Two years prior, Falke and Eisenstein attended a costume ball which didn't end happily for Falke. In fact, Eisenstein left a drunken Falke, dressed as a bat, in a public square, which exposed him to ridicule and spawned the nickname Dr. Fledermaus, which is German for "bat."

"(This) production is a result of a new collaboration between the Department of Music and the Theatre Program," said artistic director Minnita Daniel-Cox, assistant professor of voice. "This show has the added bonus of College of Arts and Science fellowships. The Research Fellows are Logan Cooper, Travis Dwire, Elizabeth Henn, Victoria Jablonski, Benjamin Jalowiec, and Maureen Steinhart. Under the guidance of UD faculty mentors, these students researched and worked through the summer to help design numerous aspects of the production. Examples of their work will be on display in the lobby during the productions."



Actress Andrea Hansgen, student costume designer Victoria Jablonski, and actress Mary Stoughton participate in the University of Dayton's production of the comic operetta "Die Fledermaus" Nov. 4-6 in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. CONTRIBUTED

"This is the second year for our collaboration with the Department of Music," added costumer Donna Beran. "This is a very natural collaboration especially in a Liberal Arts program. In addition to music and theatre majors and minors, this production includes students of all majors as performers, designers and technicians. We alternate between a musical and an opera, last year hav-

ing done 'Once Upon a Mattress,' so that students get a variety of opportunities. Productions are also aligned with our curriculum, where students earn classroom and practicum credit for their interdisciplinary, experiential learning, which is at the heart of U.D.'s Common Academic Program (CAP)."

In addition to acknowledging the talents of the cast, Daniel-Cox particularly feels the

themes within "Die Fledermaus" continue to resonate with contemporary appeal. She says the situations in the operetta remain impactful and hilarious.

"I think our students were surprised at how funny the show is," she said. "Every production is a lesson in humility because there really is nothing new under the sun. The same things that make people tick today, made people

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What: "Die Fledermaus"

Where: Kennedy Union Boll Theatre of the University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton

When: Nov. 4-6; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Next Sunday

Cost: \$12 adults; \$8 with UD ID

Tickets/more info: Call (937) 229-2545 or visit tickets.udayton.edu

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Donna Beran
Costumer

tick back then such as love, fear and ambition. Mix this with Strauss' soaring melodies and you have a real theatrical event."

The cast includes Gabriella Klotz as Rosalinde, Claire Bowman as Orlofsky, Josh Houston as Eisenstein, Holly Gyenes as Adele, and Ian Jones as Alfred. The artistic team encompasses stage director Linda Dunlevy, scenic designer Matthew Evans,

musical directors David Sievers and Ryu-Kyung Kim, and choreographer Amy Jones.

"This collaboration is truly exciting and thrilling," Dunlevy said. "I really hope audiences will be prepared to fall in love when seeing this show. It's romantic, lovely and joyous."

Contact this contributing writer at rflorence2@gmail.com.

A handy, humorous wood-working guide ... from an actor



Vick Mickunas
Book Nook

"Good Clean Fun – Misadventures in Sawdust at Offerman Workshop" by Nick Offerman (Dutton, 344 pages, \$35).

The actor Nick Offerman will always be identified in this reviewer's mind for his signature role as Ron Swanson in the TV series "Parks and Recreation." When remembering the Ron Swanson character we might recall his conservative values, libertarian philosophy, dry humor, his flowing moustache, or his enduring passion for woodworking.

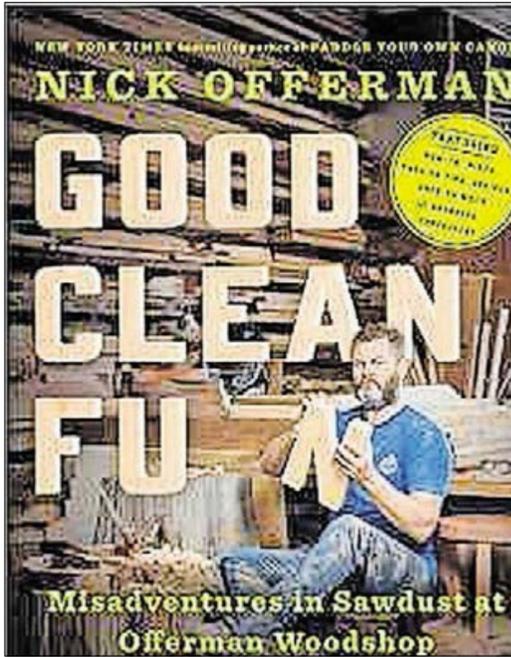
Offerman's previous books "Gumption" and "Paddle Your Own Canoe" revealed that Offerman can be just as amusing in print. The latest Offerman offering is "Good Clean Fun – Misadventures in Sawdust at Offerman Workshop."

In his introduction readers will instantly recognize the author's trademark humor.

Appropriate hilarity will range from slight chuckles to full-blown guffaws. Perhaps you are wondering if Nick Offerman's skills with a hammer and saw are authentic? After you read this book you'll surely be convinced that he is indeed the real deal.

Don't misunderstand, this is not a joke book. The book opens with the section "Setting Up Your Shop." In this section the author explains all the things that you'll need to set up a basic woodworking shop. He describes each machine and tool. Of course there's plenty of humor, wit, and crucial safety tips.

Offerman explains the importance of an essential invention, the SawStop: "in the Marvel Universe, the demigod Galactus is known as the 'Eater of Planets,' but in the woodshop it is the mighty table saw that reigns as the most



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His essay 'On Wood' features the author at his best: 'Since the time that we humanoid lashed a rock to a stick to protect ourselves from our vicious sisters, wood has played an imperative part in our lives.'

fearsome of creatures, or the 'Eater of Fingers.' This invaluable tool is by far the one that must command the greatest respect in use, but I cannot speak on this topic without trumpeting a recent innovation that has changed the game drastically when it comes to reducing membership in the nine-fingered woodworkers club..."

His essay "On Wood" features the author at his best: "since the time that we humanoid lashed a rock to a stick to protect ourselves from our vicious sisters, wood has played an imperative part in our lives as civilized mammals. Across the globe, the number of ways in which wood has been positively employed in the service of mankind is almost too great to tally. I mean ... baseball bats. Three-masted ships. Clarinets. Tree Houses. Toothpicks. Everything."

There are many useful illustrations and photographs throughout. The bulk of the book is composed of chapters devoted to specific woodworking projects. Offerman has assembled a number of guest carpenters to help lead us through each project to completion. The first project is rather basic. We learn to transform a piece of wood and a nail into a pop top bottle opener.

As we move along the projects get more elaborate. Here are the other things you can learn to make in the Offerman Toolshop: a pencil holder, a kazoo, whisky coasters, a berry stool, a jupiter side table, a beaver tail paddle, a scrappy birdhouse, a craftsman lamp, a slab cribbage board, a claro walnut slab table, a slingshot dining chair, and a slumber jack bed.

This book is sure to

provide lots of good clean constructive fun.

Vick Mickunas of Yellow

Springs interviews authors every Saturday at 7 a.m. and on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. on WYSO-FM (91.3). For

more information, visit www.wyso.org/programs/book-nook. Contact him at vickmickunas.com.

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