

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Nov. 3, 2011

‘White Christmas’ opens Nov. 10 at PHS



Left” publicity poster for all-district musical ‘White Christmas.’ Right: Romantic leads, from left: Robin Becar (Prairie High), Nick Hulscher (PHS), Josh Snider (PHS) and Calin Breaux (Battle Ground High).

The top musical talent from Battle Ground and Prairie high schools will be showcased in the musical “White Christmas,” beginning Thursday, Nov. 10 in the Prairie auditorium.

The show runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10-12, and the same three days the following week, Nov. 17-19. Tickets may be purchased online in advance at www.seatyourself.biz/prairiehighschool as well as at the door, depending on seat availability. Curtain time each night is 7 p.m.

Leads include Robin Becar of Prairie High as Betty Haynes (played in the 1954 movie by Rosemary Clooney); Nick Hulscher of Prairie as Bob Wallace (Bing Crosby in the movie); Josh Snider of Prairie as Phil Davis (Danny Kaye) and Calin Breaux of Battle Ground High as Judy Haynes (Vera-Ellen) and Ty Braden and General Waverly.

Among the show’s songs are “Blue Skies,” “Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep,” “How Deep is the Ocean (How High is the Sky)”. “Love, You Didn’t Do

Right by Me,” “Let Yourself Go,” and, of course “White Christmas.”

The story line, as described by imdb.com, goes like this: “After leaving the Army following WW II, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis team up to become a top song-and-dance act. Davis plays matchmaker and introduces Wallace to a pair of beautiful sisters (Betty and Judy) who also have a song-and-dance act.

“When Betty and Judy travel to a Vermont lodge to perform a Christmas show, Wallace and Davis follow, only to find their former commander, General Waverly, is the lodge owner. A series of romantic mix-ups ensue as the performers try to help the General.”

The overall director, including choreography, is Claire Verity. Musical directors are Monika Tabor and Darcy Schmitt, assisted by Joe Accuardi. Parent volunteers, who played a crucial role in mounting the production, include Terri Lejeune, volunteer coordinator; Terry Maupin, lead costumer, and David Ebert, Robert Shultz and Sam Shultz, set construction.

The show’s route to the Prairie high School stage began in Russia in 1888 when **Israel Isidore Baline** was born. His family later emigrated to new York City and, at some point, his name was changed to Irving Berlin, perhaps America’s most famous and prolific songwriter ever.

Berlin wrote the song “White Christmas” in 1940. Bing Crosby, a Washington state native, made it famous, first in recordings, then in the 1942 movie, “Holiday Inn,” in which he starred with Fred Astaire.

The Paramount movie “White Christmas”, with Crosby, Kaye and Clooney (George’s aunt), gave the song another boost, as if it needed one. It would be a long wait until 2004 when the stage musical, “Irving Berlin’s White Christmas,” premiered in San Francisco and, eventually, to the Prairie High School stage.



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