



The Spirit of River City

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

SUPPORT PRESENTATION

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

“TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY” IS A TALE OF TWO INSTITUTIONS

American Musical Theater

An opportunity to support one of America’s greatest unique contributions to world culture. A vital part of the arts in the U.S. A cause worth supporting.

Princeton University

The Lewis Center for the Arts was launched very late in the history of the university and offers certificates in theater. Right now, a \$330 million complex for the Lewis Center is being built next to McCarter Theatre. The 47 Princeton alumni attached to “Tigers Tackle Broadway” are from 33 different classes, many of them with certificates in theater at Princeton, many who graduated long before these certificates were available.

The award-winning musical “The Spirit of River City” is a wonderful embodiment of the institution of American Musical Theater and also of the multi-faceted talents of Princeton Alumni in the theater.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

WHAT IS “TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY”?

- A unique assemblage of 47 Princeton alumni attached to an award-winning musical, *The Spirit of River City*, written by Randy Hobler '68, in acting and production roles aimed at getting to Broadway in 2017.

Plan: One week run at McCarter Theatre, then one week at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn, NJ in the summer of 2016. Invite New York producers, gain great reviews. Attract at least one producer to take it on.

Raise \$800,000 to fund these 2016 productions also from Princeton alumni.

If you are a fan of Princeton and of the theatre, please consider a tax-deductible donation.

Princeton alumni attached to the show are listed on the following pages.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM

Princeton alumni attached to *The Spirit of River City*. (Includes multiple listings for a given part/role in case any one individual has a scheduling conflict.)

ROLE

ATTACHED TIGERS

Young Meredith Willson

Jonathan Schwartz '10. *Spiderman* and featured role in *Aladdin* on Broadway.

Rosalie Willson

Sandra York '92. *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Christmas Story*.

Nicole Vilknor '00 *Katzenjammers*, Manhattan School of Music.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

Zi Ling

John Willson

Elder Meredith Willson

ATTACHED TIGERS

Sandra Fong '13. *Aida, Floyd Collins*. 2008 U.S. Olympic team.

Emi Nakamura '13. Princeton Glee Club.

Sarah Anne Sillers '13. 4-time Triangle Club, 9 regional productions.

Joseph Quinn '80

Ron Harper '54. *Planet of the Apes, Pearl Harbor*.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

Dixie Willson

Young Louis Armstrong/Hoxie

Four old “Benchsitters” (barbershop)

ATTACHED TIGERS

Hannah Barudin '10. *Into the Woods*,
Urinetown,
High School Musical.

Karron Graves '99. *Coram Boy* on
Broadway.

Caroline Banks '14. Outstanding
Work in Theatre Award, Princeton.

Adam Hyndman '12, *Footnotes*.

Joel Rosenman '63
Footnotes and a founder of
Woodstock

John Corelli *82

Granville Burgess '69
Triangle Club

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

Four old “Benchsitters” (barbershop) (cont'd)

ATTACHED TIGERS

Brian Goehring '98
Tigertones

Jon Murphy '57
Tigertones

Michael Greenstein '65
Footnotes

Steve Teich '62
Footnotes

Jamie McBean '06
Footnotes

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

Friends of Young Meredith/Banjo Boys

Cheerleaders

Book writer, composer, lyricist

ATTACHED TIGERS

Matthew Krob '08
Tigertones

Chris Ghaffari '12
Yale School of Drama

Jed Peterson '06, Louis
Sudler Prize, (Princeton)
Hard Times

Rob Grant '08. MFA Yale
Drama School

Nicole Greenbaum '07
Christina Bott '13, Roaring
Twenties a capella at Princeton

Randy Hobler '68

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

Director

Choreographer

Associate Choreographer

Orchestrator

ATTACHED TIGERS

Suzanne Agins '97. MFA Directing, UCSD; Princess Grace Directing Fellowship; adjunct faculty, Princeton University, 2006--present

Jeff Kuperman '12. Ars Nova. American Repertory Theater.

Adam Hyndman '12

Andrea Grody '11

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

ATTACHED TIGERS

Musician

Peter de Boor '88
French horn, Washington
National Opera

Musician

Bill Hershey '70
Trumpet

Musician

Tom Artin '60
Lead trombone in Mel
Tormé's band, worldwide,
at the White House, etc.

Musician

James Pyle '69, keyboard.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

ATTACHED TIGERS

Musician

Amy Madden '75. Bass.

Musician

Dave Fischer '75. Bass.

Musician

**Alistair MacRae '96. Cellist.
Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall,
worldwide.**

Musician

**James Marvel '09. French
horn.**

Musician

**Todd Beaney '80. Keyboard.
Played in Glenn Miller band.**

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

ATTACHED TIGERS

Musician

Bill Ash '80. Trumpet, trombone. Played with The Temptations, The Happenings, Bobby Rydell and 18-time Grammy winner Jimmy Sturr.

Costume Designer

David Kaley '97. *La Cage aux Folles, The Addams Family.*

Lighting Designer

Alexandra Mannix '12
31 production credits.

Projection Designer

David Bengali '04. MFA, NYU Design for Stage and Film. *A Night with Janis Joplin, Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater, etc.*

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRODUCTION TEAM (cont'd)

ROLE

ATTACHED TIGERS

Vocal Director

Kevin Leong '91. Ph.D. Biophysics,
Ph.D. Musical Arts. Music Director,
Concord Chorus

Pre-Recorded Sound Sequences

Michael Artin '87. Children's Television
Workshop.

Poster Artist

Tom Kleh '71. Cartoonist for *The
New Yorker*, writer.

Entertainment Attorney

Julie Angell '99. Theatrical
Entertainment Attorney,
Franklin, Weinrib, Rudell &
Vassallo.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

THE SHOW

The struggle of Meredith Willson to recompose his life through a surrogate—his own younger self. He arrives in heaven, ends up in the Remorse Department, where he learns he can go back in time to invisibly influence his younger self to reconcile with his granite-hearted father. The father who never even uttered his son's name to him, who never acknowledged Meredith's greatness, even on his death bed.

This sets off a series of adventures, leading young Meredith to run away from home to San Francisco, to try to meet his hero, John Philip Sousa. Along the way he forms "The Banjo Boys" group, and falls in love with Chinese-American Zi Ling (right).

He ends up returning home, and armed with a march he's written, the Banjo Boys and new confidence, he helps Mason City win the high school marching band contest and along the way wins back his father's heart.



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THE SHOW (cont'd)

2008: The Stephen Sondheim Performing Arts Center, Fairfield, Iowa. One reviewer wrote “The choreography for ‘Sears, Dear Sears’ is worth the price of admission all by itself.”



TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

THE SHOW

In 2011, the show wins 2nd prize in a national contest, “The Search for New Musicals” from ANMT (The Academy of New Musical Theatre) in Los Angeles.



TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

WHAT THE PRO'S SAY

“Delightful...the story and the music are so engaging.”

--Ruth Hendel, Producer

“*Totally* charming...some of the songs are real winners, especially ‘Why Can’t a Girl?’ and ‘Thanks Be to Music’.”

--Ken Cerniglia, Disney Theatricals

“I really enjoyed the music from the show—especially ‘Thanks Be to Music’, which stayed in my head for quite some time.”

--Jennifer Childs, Artistic Director, 1812 Productions

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WHAT PROFESSIONAL PRINCETON ALUMS SAY

“I found it very entertaining. It reminded me of the bygone days of classic musicals like ‘The Music Man’, ‘Pajama Game’, ‘Anything Goes’, etc. I got a kick out of the sound effects that kicked off many of the songs – ratchets, wood blocks, bells, etc.”

--Phil Goodhart '81

“I liked the spirit of the show very much. In particular, I liked ‘Sears, Dear Sears’. I think it perfectly captures the nostalgia of the period. ‘Thanks Be to Music’ really lands this score. ‘Play It from Your Heart’ is an especially strong song. My favorite ballad is ‘Listen to Their Dreams’ and you have a dynamite ending in ‘People of the USA’. “

--Bill Brown '50
Book writer on
The Wiz.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRINCETON ALUMS (cont'd)

“The Spirit of River City is an entertaining slice of American life in the early 20th Century -- complete with can-do patriotism and a multilayered and diverse ethnic experience. Hobler includes many charming bits, cleverly set up and expertly paid off. As a result, *The Spirit of River City* captures the essence of nostalgic shows like the ones so famously written by Meredith Willson himself. The show is ultimately a celebration: of music, of by-gone America, and of the life of Meredith Willson.”

--Nancy Barnes Seligson '91

“The show is filled with delightful toe-tappers, gentle ballads, and all of it very much in the spirit of *The Music Man*.”

--Donald Marsden '64

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRINCETON ALUMS (cont'd)

"I enjoyed the wit of your writing, especially in 'Silent Song' and 'Alphabetter Friends,' and was engaged with the relationships--Mere and Dixie, John and Rosalie, Zi Ling and Mere, as well as Mere and John."

--Sidney Friedman '61
Adjunct Professor
Dramatic Literature and Directing
Boston University
School of Theatre

"The dream of gathering alumni to bring Randy Hobler's special *Spirit of River City* to life is a bold and exciting one. The story has broad family appeal, and the quintessentially American spirit of Meredith Willson, at both ages, captures so well the vital need to break with old traditions in order to discover the new. You can feel history in the pages of this script, but from its opening number, you know you're seeing it from a fresh and modern perspective. Huzzah!"

--Jamie Horton '78
Associate Professor of Theatre
Dartmouth College

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRINCETON ALUM S (cont'd)

“I was impressed by your musical. The story and the lyrics as well as the music showed a great deal of imagination and talent.”

--John Eaton '57
Musical Director, Opera Composer
Pocket Opera Players

“Several songs are catchy and tuneful. I particularly liked the new opening number and the ‘Duel Duet’. You have captured the time and spirit of Meredith Willson quite well.”

--Glenn Paul '79

“Randolph Hobler's *Spirit of River City* has great heart and endearingly tells the story of Meredith Willson. This piece would be particularly appealing to families and captures the heart behind Willson's iconic *The Music Man*.”

--Carol Dunne '87
Senior Lecturer
Theatre Department
Dartmouth College

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

PRINCETON ALUMS (cont'd)

“Musical theatre is a quintessentially American invention and Randy Hobler's musical extravaganza *The Spirit of River City* is an original musical that celebrates the best of American musical theatre. With its charming, old-fashioned story line of Meredith Willson's dreams of making it big as a composer, and contemporary subplots of family strife, racial inequality, and the ability of music to bring people together, this family-oriented musical has much to recommend it. The book is smart and funny, and the songs represent a variety of American musical styles at their best. Hobler has created a piece that will resonate with audiences who yearn for theatre that is a joyful celebration of the individual spirit and collective power of music.

Spirit of River City is in the company of such satisfying Broadway fare as *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *A Man of No Importance* with big show-stopping numbers and charming ballads. We seldom see deserving original musicals make it to the Broadway stage. This play has the potential to win hearts and delight audiences of all ages.”

--Grace Zandarski '84
Lecturer
Yale School of Drama

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TIMELINE



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BENEFITS OF DONATING

- The excitement and pride of joining other Princetonians to land a classic, well-written, well-crafted, entertaining, charming, hummable musical on Broadway.
- Helping Princeton alumni theatrical professionals be a part of a Broadway musical.
- Contributing to, participating in a dream being fulfilled.
- Chance to support the arts in a Broadway-unique alma-mater focused way.
- A chance to celebrate the life of Meredith Willson and the spirit of American music.
- Free prime tickets to the show on Broadway followed by an angel party.
- Donor listing recognition in out-of-town and Broadway Playbills.
- If it later wins the Tony for best musical, higher-end donors get to come onstage during the TV broadcast.

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TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Contributions to *The Spirit of River City* are given via Fractured Atlas (www.fracturedatlas.org), a non-profit, 503 (c) (3) arts service organization that manages funds for artists and writers in the U.S. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

CD's of the score are available, as are scripts. Randy Hobler will visit with serious potential contributors in person with fuller presentations and to field questions.

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

MY MUSIC AT PRINCETON

1964—1967:

“The Nightwatch”

Known as “the live jukebox” we sang 5-part harmony Beach Boy and 4-part Four Seasons songs, among many others. I played rhythm guitar and bass.



Randy Hobler '68, Marty Faletti '68, Bill McCabe '67, Kit Hinsley '67 and Pete Stockman '68

TIGERS TACKLE BROADWAY

MY MUSIC AT PRINCETON

1968:

I played drums in the
Princeton University
Marching Band.



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