

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Doug Hughes

 408-476-2267

 doug.hughes@southbaymt.com

**“THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE” TO OPEN MAY 18TH**

SOUTH BAY MUSICAL THEATRE TO PRESENT THE TOE-TAPPING, TONY WINNING SHOW

South Bay Musical Theatre plans to close its successful 2018-2019 season by bringing ***Thoroughly Modern Millie***to eager South Bay audiences. Described as a “high-spirited musical romp” that is a “delightful valentine to the long-standing spirit of New York City and the people who seek to discover themselves there,” the musical comedy is a favorite of tap lovers everywhere. With seasoned director/choreographer and SBMT favorite Lee Ann Payne at the helm, the show will feature a cast of 22 talented Bay Area triple threats and stars Jessica Maxey as Millie Dillmount. The role was first made famous by Julie Andrews in the 1967 film, and later propelled Sutton Foster from one-time understudy to both Broadway stardom and her first Tony award.

The winner of six Tony Awards — including Best Musical — ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** was the 2002 season’s most awarded new show on Broadway. The score includes notable favorites like “Forget About the Boy”; “I Turned the Corner”; “Gimme, Gimme”; and, of course, the toe-tapping title tune. ***Thoroughly Modern Millie***features abook by Richard Morris and Dick Scanlan, new music by Jeanine Tesori, new lyrics by Dick Scanlan, and an original story and screenplay by Richard Morris for the Universal Pictures film.

“***Thoroughly Modern Millie***is really a love letter to the awe of New York City and the dreams that people have of finding themselves,” says Lee Ann Payne, who directs and choreographs this high-energy production for SBMT. “Millie is indefatigable, and we are so fortunate to have Jessica Maxey fill this role — she is a true performer in every sense of the word. And, this *cast!* The characters around Millie are as diverse and vibrant as the city itself, and each and every one of them is a triple threat. From tap to ballet to jazz to ballroom — this cast can execute it all.”

The show runs weekends May 18 to June 8, 2019 at the Saratoga Civic Theater, 13777 Fruitvale Ave., Saratoga. Opening night patrons will enjoy a champagne toast with the cast following the first performance. Evening performances start at 8 p.m. while matinees (Sundays and the closing Saturday) start at 2:30 p.m. General admission tickets are $29-$39. There are $2 discounts for seniors 65 years or older, and $20 tickets for students and children. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.SouthBayMT.com](http://www.southbaymt.com/) or by calling (408) 266-4734.

**The Artistic Team**

Director & Choreographer: Lee Ann Payne

Assistant Director & Choreographer: Jennifer C. Maggio

Musical Director: Joseph Kelly

Vocal Director: Kevin Brownstein

Assistant Vocal Director: Michael Stahl

Executive Director: Sara K. Dean

**The Cast**

MILLIE: Jessica Maxey

JIMMY: James Jones

DOROTHY: Felicia Chang

TREVOR: Michael Rhone

MUZZY: Gwyneth Price Panos

MRS. MEERS: Karyn Rondeau

MISS FLANNERTY: Mylissa Malley

CHING HO: Justin Fan

BUN FOO: Edmond Kwong

ETHEL/ENSEMBLE: Francesca Cipponeri

FEMALE ENSEMBLE:
Lindsey Duran, Gwyneth Forrester, Rhona McFadyen, Bethany Mindrum, Amanda Nguyen, Sarah Rosenberg, Elizabeth Geurts (Female Swing)

MALE ENSEMBLE:
Steve Allhoff, Kyle Arrouzet, Christopher Pynchon, Michael Saenz, Braden Taylor

**The Story**

Based on the 1967 Academy Award-winning film, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* takes you back to the height of the 1920s Jazz Age in New York City, when “moderns,” including a flapper named Millie Dillmount, were bobbing their hair, raising their hemlines, entering the workforce, and rewriting the rules of love. Millie has carefully calculated romantic plans to find the perfect, successful husband, but an unexpected meeting with penniless Jimmy Smith might just change all that. Filled with dancing flappers, dashing leading men, and a dragon lady of a villainess that you’ll love to hate, “Thoroughly Modern Millie” is perfectly constructed madcap merriment.

South Bay Musical Theatre, formerly known as the Saratoga Drama Group, has been presenting award-winning productions for 56 years, since its establishment in 1963. For more information or to obtain tickets online, visit their website at [www.SouthBayMT.com](http://www.southbaymt.com/).

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