

## Moline High School's Musical: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Written by M. McNeil

Monday, 11 March 2013 12:03

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With a cast of 80 and a complete orchestra, Moline High School students are putting on the ever-popular Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

(Moline, IL) Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat] is a popular Andrew Lloyd Webber musical with lyrics by Tim Rice. The story is based on the "coat of many colors" story of Joseph from the Bible's Book of Genesis. The show has little spoken dialogue; it is completely sung-through. Its family-friendly storyline, universal themes and catchy music have resulted in numerous productions of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. This month, 42 Moline High School student actors along with 38 elementary and middle school students, a supporting crew of dozens of students, and an orchestra of 15 will produce four shows for local audiences. Dates of the show are March 14, 15 and 16 and the media will get a sneak preview of the show this week.

WHO: Moline High School Students and the children's choir

WHAT: Media Preview of the MHS spring musical

WHEN: Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 pm

WHERE: MHS Auditorium

There will be 4 performances-- Thursday, March 14 @ 7:30 PM; Friday, March 15 @ 7:30 PM; Saturday, March 16 @ 2 PM and 7:30 PM. \$6.00 for students; \$8.00 for adults. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the MHS bookstore. 309-743-8833

This show was the first Lloyd Webber and Rice musical to be performed publicly. Joseph was first presented as a 15-minute pop cantata at Colet Court School in London in 1968 and was recorded as a concept album in 1969. After the success of the next Lloyd Webber and Rice piece, Jesus Christ Superstar, Joseph received stage productions beginning in 1970 and expanded recordings in 1971 and 1972. While still undergoing various transformations and expansions, the musical was produced in the West End in 1973, and in its full format was recorded in 1974 and opened on Broadway in 1982. Several major revivals and a 1999 straight-to-video film, starring Donny Osmond, followed.

Musical Theatre Productions by the Moline High School Music Department

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1961 Pajama Game  
1962 Bells Are Ringing  
1963 My Fair Lady  
1964 Bye, Bye Birdie  
1965 South Pacific  
1966 The Music Man  
1967 The Sound of Music  
1968 How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying  
1969 Carousel  
1970 Li'l Abner  
1971 Guys & Dolls  
1972 Pajama Game  
1973 Hello Dolly  
1974 No, No Nanette  
1975 The Music Man  
1976 Mame  
1977 How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying  
1978 The King & I  
1979 Hello Dolly  
1980 Oklahoma  
1981 Irene  
1982 Li'l Abner  
1983 Funny Girl  
1984 Little Mary Sunshine  
1985 The Sound of Music  
1986 Hello Dolly  
1987 The Music Man  
1988 South Pacific  
1989 Guys & Dolls  
1990 How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying  
1991 Bye, Bye Birdie  
1992 Oklahoma  
1993 Cabaret  
1994 West Side Story  
1995 Mame  
1996 Damn Yankees  
1997 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat  
1998 The Sound of Music  
1999 Bye, Bye Birdie  
2000 Once Upon A Mattress  
2001 Grease  
2002 Godspell  
2003 Phantom  
2005 Oliver  
2006 A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum  
2007 King And I

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2008	Cabaret
2009	Beauty and the Beast
2010	The Music Man
2011	Bye Bye Birdie
2012	The Sound of Music
2013	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Joseph Director, Ron May, has been involved in musical theatre for more than 40 years. His experience began upon the recommendation of his college advisor. May was urged to become more knowledgeable about musical theatre if he wanted to be a high school choral director.

Immediately after college, May was cast as Thomas Jefferson in the Quad City Music Guild's production of "1776" and since then has performed additional leading roles in "Damn Yankees", "Cabaret", "Evita", "Godspell", among others. As an educator, he has directed/produced more than 50 productions. In addition to educational and community theatre settings, he has served as musical director for professional productions of "Hairspray", "Legally Blonde-the musical", "Whodunit? The musical" (world premiere at Circa 21), "The World Goes Round", and countless other reviews and industrial musical shows.

It was doing a community theatre production of "The Sound of Music" where May met his wife of 36 years. He and Cindy (a freelance choreographer) have collaborated in nearly all of his educational musical theatre productions. They are both collaborating on this production.

Students of Mr. May have gone on to successful careers in professional theatre. Former students have performed in "Miss Saigon", "The Full Monty", and "The Drowsy Chaperone" on Broadway and in national tours of "Peter Pan". Many former students are currently pursuing a career in musical theatre across the country. Some current seniors are exploring acting, musical theatre and/or directing in part because of Mr. May's influence.

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