PRESS RELEASE
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HOWARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
SETS SAIL WITH THE BELOVED MUSICAL

ANYTHING GOES
BY COLE PORTER

WASHINGTON, DC------ Howard University’s Department of Theatre Arts continues its 2014-2015 Theatre and Dance season, TOP OF THE HEAP with Cole Porter’s musical comedy – ANYTHING GOES, turning back time to the 1930s with irresistible humor, excitement, fabulous music, and dazzling dance, set aboard the S.S. American cruise liner. ANYTHING GOES is directed by Howard University Department of Theatre Arts Professor, Raymond O. Caldwell with Musical Direction by e’Marcus Harper-Short and will be performed in the Ira Aldridge Theater, Wednesday – Friday, March 4 – 6, 11 – 13, Saturday, March 7, 14 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm.

Sailing on the S.S. American are a gangster on the run posing as a minister, a nightclub singer and her four dancing "Angels," a society Miss who is engaged to an English gentleman (also on the ship) along with her ex-boyfriend who stows away on the boat to try to win her back. A series of comical mistaken identities ensues as the passengers and crew sing and dance their way across the Atlantic to fantastic Cole Porter tunes including "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're The Top," "It's De-lovely" and "Blow Gabriel, Blow," to name just a few. With music and lyrics by Cole Porter, ANYTHING GOES is one of the most enduringly popular musicals in the American repertory. The show was first performed on Broadway in 1934 and quickly became one of the longest running musicals of the decade.

Cole Albert Porter (June 9, 1891 – October 15, 1964) was an American composer and songwriter. Born to a wealthy family in Indiana, he defied the wishes of his domineering grandfather and took up music as a profession. Classically trained, he was drawn towards musical theatre. After a slow start, he began to achieve success in the 1920s, and by the 1930s he was one of the major songwriters for the Broadway musical stage. Unlike many successful Broadway composers, Porter wrote the lyrics as well as the music for his songs.
After a serious horseback riding accident in 1937, Porter was left disabled and in constant pain, but he continued to work. His shows of the early 1940s did not contain the lasting hits of his best work of the 1920s and 30s, but in 1948 he made a triumphant comeback with his most successful musical, Kiss Me, Kate. It won the first Tony Award for Best Musical.

Porter's other musicals include Fifty Million Frenchmen, DuBarry Was a Lady, Anything Goes, Can-Can and Silk Stockings. His numerous hit songs include "Night and Day", "Begin the Beguine", "I Get a Kick Out of You", "Well, Did You Evah!", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and "You're the Top". He also composed scores for films from the 1930s to the 1950s, including Born to Dance (1936), which featured the song "You'd Be So Easy to Love"; Rosalie (1937), which featured "In the Still of the Night"; High Society (1956), which included "True Love"; and Les Girls (1957).

**Director Raymond O. Caldwell** holds an MFA in acting with a focus in outreach and developing new work from The Ohio State University and a BFA in acting from the University of Florida. He has toured nationally and internationally and worked with playwrights from around the world including Ntozake Shange, Edward Albee, Tarell Alvin McCraney, and Sally Oswald. Caldwell received the Allen Lee Hughes Fellowship in Community Engagement in 2009 and the following season joined the Arena Stage staff. As an artist/director/divisor he has developed theatrical works with various schools and organizations including Interlochen Center for the Arts, Jefferson Middle School, Kingsbury Day School, Kipp DC College Prep, The Burke School, The Wendt Center for Loss and Healing, Child and Family Services Agency’s Office of Youth Empowerment, Metro Teen AIDS, and Columbus Refugee and Immigration Services. In 2012 he traveled to India to create devised theater with diverse groups in Kolkata, Patna, New Delhi and Hyderabad. He has also worked in Ukraine, Greece, Germany, and the UK. Caldwell is the associate producer for theHegira, a DC based Theatre Company focused on sharing the stories of women of color. He has directed extensively throughout DC, and was the recipient of the DC Cultural Development Corporation’s grant for direction of House Halfway by Norman Allen.

Tickets may be purchased at the Ira Aldridge Theater Box Office or by calling (202) 806-7700. Additional information about ANYTHING GOES can be obtained by calling (202) 806-7050.
ANYTHING GOES INFORMATION

WHERE: Howard University, Ira Aldridge Theater
DATES: Wednesday – Friday, March 4 – 6, 11 – 13, Saturday, March 7, 14 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm.
MUSIC AND LYRICS: Cole Porter
BOOK: Guy Bolton and P. G. Wodehouse, revised by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse
DIRECTOR: Raymond O. Caldwell
MUSICAL DIRECTOR: e’Marcus Harper-Short
CHOREOGRAPHER: Royce Zackery
DESIGNERS: Set Designer, Michael Stepowany; Light Designer, TW Starnes ; Costume Designer, Brandee Mathies; Sound Designer, April Sturdivant; Props Designer; Greg Jackson; Stage Managers, Zoia Wiseman and Renata Wilson

HOWARD UNIVERSITY, IRA ALDRIDGE THEATER INFORMATION

PERFORMANCE AND TICKET PRICES*: $17.00 General Admission; $10.00 Faculty/Staff/Senior Citizens/Alumni/Military; $7.00 Students (with valid ID)

GROUPS: Discount rates are available for Groups of 10 or more, contact Denise Saunders Thompson at (202) 806-7050.
ACCESSIBILITY: Accessible seating available by reservation

LOCATION: 2455 6th Street, NW (located next door to Cramton Auditorium on Howard University’s campus)

INFORMATION: Tickets (202) 806-7700; Department of Theatre Arts (202) 806-7050;
Fax (202) 806-9193

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