

'Once Upon a Mattress' on HHS stage

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Even though the story of “The Princess and the Pea” is well known, audience members might be in for a walloping surprise at the HHS Drama Department’s production of “Once Upon a Mattress,” set to hit the stage this weekend.

Performances are Friday and Saturday, March 22-23 at 8 p.m. in the HHS auditorium both nights.

Serving as the director of this year’s spring musical is Eric Conklin, with Penny Dockins as assistant director and Pat Wiebers as music director.

A spin on the classic tale, there’s a good chance this musical will make audiences never look at fairy tales quite the same way again.

For instance, they might not have known that Princess Winnifred actually swam the moat to reach Prince Dauntless the Drab or that Lady Larken’s love for Sir Harry provided a rather compelling reason that she reach the bridal altar post haste. And people probably don’t know it wasn’t, in fact, the pea that caused the princess a sleepless night.



Members of the “Once Upon a Mattress” cast are pictured from left, front row, Eva Penzing, Lori McWilliams, Kaely Zilla, Dani Brandt, Megan Parker and Brittney Protsman; second row, A.J. Brandt, Alexandria McCallum, Elli Ahro, Alyssa Killin and Anastasia Conklin; and back row, Jack Gorwitz, Jacob Vasa, Zach Roll, Ryan Parker, Ben

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Martinez, Cody Lamm and Molly Brandt. Not pictured is Logan Gift. —Enterprise photo

Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting shenanigans.

HHS cast members are Molly Brandt as Queen Aggravain; Jacob Vasa, Prince Dauntless; Eva Penzing, Princess Winnifred; Ben Martinez, jester; Anastasia Conklin, Lady Larken; Zach Roll, Sir Harry; Brittney Prottzman, minstrel; Jack Gorwitz, King Sextimus.

Ryan Parker, wizard; Dani Brandt, princess and Lady H; Logan Gift, Sir Studley; Alexandria McCallum, Lady Rowena and Nightingale; Elli Ahro, lady; A.J. Brandt, knight; Lori McWilliams, Lady Merrill; Megan Parker, Lady Mabelle; Kaely Zilla, lady; Cody Lamm, knight and Harold; and Alyssa Killin, Lady Beatrice.

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