



Liam Galpin of Easthampton, as Jay Gatsby, and Alison Smythe of Wilbraham, as Daisy Buchanan, lead an ensemble cast in the Holyoke Community College theatrical production of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," playing today through Saturday.

(PHOTOS COURTESY HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

HOLYOKE

Roaring '20s comes to life with 'Great Gatsby'

HCC production takes stage today through Saturday

While there is certainly a lyrical quality to the prose in F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, "The Great Gatsby," set during the Jazz Age of the Roaring '20s, music, as important as it is to the story, does not literally project from the pages.

But it does literally sound from the stage during the Holyoke Community College spring theater production of

"The Great Gatsby," which opens today and runs through Saturday.

In this "Gatsby," a five-piece jazz band is part of the ensemble cast and lends a live soundtrack to the tragic tale of the mysterious Jay Gatsby and his pursuit of his long-lost love Daisy Buchanan.

Of all the theatrical adaptations now available — the copyright for the book expired in 2021 — HCC theater professor and director Patricia Sandoval chose the 2006 version written by playwright Simon Levy.

SEE 'GATSBY', PAGE D7

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>Chicopee Elks #1849 431 Granby Road, Chicopee 413-592-1849 Bingo Tuesday Doors Open at 4PM 2 Progressive Jackpots 6:15PM Early Bird 6:20PM Start Min. Entry Package \$15 Open Seating 2 Halls for Players Handicap Restroom 1st Floor</p>	<p>Polish American Citizens Club 355 East Street, Ludlow, 583-6385 Bingo Wednesdays 6:30-9:30pm Doors Open at 4pm. Minimum Admission \$50 1 - 1199 Progressive w/ Climbing Consolation Prize 2 - \$500 Cover Alls 3 - \$200 Special Games All Games will be \$100 with 90 People or More All Cards are included with Admission</p>	<p>Fairview Knights of Columbus 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee (413) 532-2011 DOORS OPEN 4:30PM MASKS OPTIONAL Progressive Jackpot 6:15pm Early Bird 6:20pm Start Min. Entry Package \$15 Electronic Bingo Avail. Snack Bar, Open Seating, Handicap Restrooms</p>

CALL TODAY 413-788-1250 TO LIST HERE

'Gatsby'

CONTINUES FROM PAGE D5

"It's well written, it was approved by the Fitzgerald estate, and uses a lot of Fitzgerald's language in it," said Sandoval.

More than that, she said, she liked that Levy's stage directions include music, but that the cues don't call for specific songs to be played - or live music at all, for that matter.

"I liked that it was open ended," she said, "so we picked the music."

The "we" in this case included herself, choreographer Tiffany Joseph, and guitarist and HCC music professor Bob Ferrier, the musical director and band leader for the play.

The show opens with a big dance number set to Irving Berlin's "Putting on the Ritz." Benny Goodman's "Sing Sing Sing" leads the top of the second act. The play also incorporates songs such as "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin and others - not necessarily written before 1922, when the story is set.

"We wanted to choose music that would be familiar to the audience," Sandoval said, "so they could feel a part of the energy. We wanted the music to be enjoyable."

For those not familiar with it, "The Great Gatsby," both the book and the play, is narrated by the humble Nick Carraway (played by student actor Zachary Ciano, of Springfield), who has moved east to learn the New York City bond trade. Much of the action takes place in the fictional Long Island en-

clave of West Egg, where Carraway meets his suspiciously rich neighbor, Jay Gatsby (Liam Galpin, of Easthampton), who enlists him in a plot to reconnect with Carraway's cousin, Daisy (Alison Smythe, of Wilbraham), now married to an unfaithful brute named Tom Buchanan (Joe Wilcox, of Westfield).

Additional cast members include Myrtle Wilson (Aolanis Figueroa Pinto, Holyoke); George Wilson (Kazz Cuyler, Holyoke); Jordan Baker (Thea Shinholster, Springfield); Mr. McKee (Chandler Frantz, Easthampton); Mrs. McKee/Dancer 2/Police officer (Zoe Fydenkevez, Chicopee); Mrs. Michaelis (Clove Wood, Agawam); Meyer Wolfsheim/Party Host (Manual Morales, HCC alum); Dancer 1 (Serenety Rodriguez, Holyoke); Cigarette Girl (Wandeliz Gonzalez Marrero, Westfield); Drinks Girl (Gissel Santos, Holyoke).

The band providing the score for "The Great Gatsby" is comprised of Bob Ferrier (guitar); Ken Forfia (piano); Andy Kivela (drums); Bruce Krasin (clarinet, soprano saxophone, tenor saxophone); HCC student Kai Caban of Amherst (bass).

"The Great Gatsby" will be staged Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., with an additional 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday. The April 12 show is ASL-interpreted.

Tickets are \$5 HCC students, staff, and faculty; \$10 general admission; and \$8 seniors. They are available one hour before each show at the Leslie Phillips Box Office or by calling 413-552-2528.