

STAGE RIGHT

COLE PORTER COMING TO THE CRIGHTON!

BY: PATRICE KENTIMENOS



Stage Right will present "Cole" by Strachan and Green at the historic Crighton Theatre from February 19th - March 7th. This scripted and choreographed musical revue will highlight the life and works of Cole Porter, one of America's most gifted and prolific songwriters of all time. Musical theatre buffs will delight in the nostalgic ambience of this show.

Manny Cafeo will direct this production and has hinted that there will be lots and lots of dance numbers in the style of tap and swing (among others), ladies and gents in tuxedos and gowns, as well as singing highlights and narration. Manny has a strong background in musical theatre and has been involved for 30 years with Houston's Playhouse 1960, the Crighton Players and various other venues.

If you are not familiar with Cole Porter you will find this to be a fascinating show. Porter has written literally hundreds of songs in his lifetime, some arcane and hardly recognized to numerous Broadway hits. Born to a wealthy family in 1891 he had been taught music by his mother but groomed to go to law school by his maternal grandfather. He at-

tended Yale University in 1909, sang in the Yale Glee Club and wrote over 300 songs during that time alone – including the football fight songs, "Bulldog, Bulldog" and "Bingo Eli Yale" (aka "Bingo, That's The Lingo!"), both of which are played at the school to this day!

After graduating from Yale and going on to Harvard Law School, Porter was urged by an exasperated law professor to "focus on his music." Taking the professor's advice to heart he switched over to the School of Music.

Unlike his contemporaries, such as George Gershwin and Irving Berlin, Porter's first attempts in writing Broadway musicals flopped. Feeling dejected he moved to Paris, France where he lived, married and wrote more music until the late 1920's. He then moved back to New York where he "began" a most successful career in writing music for Broadway. It's worth noting that many of the songs he wrote during his life abroad had invariably become hits later on.

Cole Porter was considered daring with his music writing, incorporating many risqué (for the times) lyrics into his songs. Many of his songs were banned from public radio but

are considered standards at this time. Notable Porter songs would be "Let's Do It (Let's Fall In Love)", "Love For Sale", "Anything Goes", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "Too Darn Hot" and "I Get a Kick Out of You" – to name but a miniscule few.

"Cole" promises to be as unpredictable and lavish as the music writer himself and is a must see of the season! With the expert direction of Manny Cafeo and choreography by Angela Graves, you don't want to miss this one.

Performances of "Cole" will be Feb. 19 – Mar. 7 Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sunday Matinees (February 27th & March 7th) at 2pm. Please call the box office at 936-441-7469, ext. 201 for ticket information. Or better yet, check out our online ticketing option at the Crighton Theatre website: www.crightontheatre.org. For more information about STAGE RIGHT and the remaining shows in our season, visit our website: www.stage-right.org. To sign up for our monthly e-newsletter about all shows coming to the Crighton please visit www.crighton-theatre.com. Don't miss this swellagant party! ♦

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