



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kevin Kearney

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Matthew Nicola

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The Highwood Theatre Presents School of Rock

"Giving students of wide age ranges the opportunity to work together creates an environment of mentorship, shared learning, and produces stunning results in a show perfect for the entire family"

Continuing their Off Your Rocker: Redefining and Defying the Status Quo 2017-2018 season, The Highwood Theatre is proud to present School of Rock. This Highwood product is a historic first for the theater for a variety of reasons –

- The biggest cast in Highwood history with 29 performers,
- The first time Highwood is offering 2nd and 3rd graders the chance to perform alongside older students – and has inspired the creation of a younger segment of the After School Production Company this Winter (a cast of 2nd-8th graders will produce *Bye Bye Birdie* this winter)
- Highwood is one of the only theatre companies granted permission to produce the show while it's still on Broadway,
- All students "in the band" are playing their own music,
- And, the tech and design teams are comprised entirely of students.

"This production truly embodies everything that Highwood is about," said Highwood Executive Director Kevin Kearney. "Students are involved at all levels, and have the chance to showcase their diverse talents. Giving students of wide age ranges the opportunity to work together creates an environment of mentorship, shared learning, and produces stunning results in a show perfect for the entire family!"

Highwood's 2017-2018 season of shows stems from its mission of building community through theatre and giving everyone a voice in the theatre they produce. In combination with the driving theme, Highwood hopes this season will allow everyone involved to gain a new perspective on their craft and on the expectations challenged by the productions. It will also offer unparalleled opportunities to Highwood's

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students and professionals, from staging Highwood's first professional musical in three years to bringing acclaimed Broadway performer Nick Blaemire and 34-time world dance champion Cate Caplin to Silver Spring.

"The theme extends beyond just rock and roll; each show this year brings a different perspective on our season theme, from powerful and moving to upbeat and rocking out. Yet each is thought-provoking and pushes audiences to think outside their comfort zones and discover new feelings and thoughts about their own lives and the lives of others," said Kearney.

School of Rock

Based on the Paramount Movie by Mike White

By Julian Fellows with New Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Lyrics by Glenn Slater

Directed by Kevin Kearney and Dylan Kaufman

December 8 - 17

Based on the smash hit film of the same name, this high-octane musical tells the story of guitarist Dewey Finn - recently out of a job and mistakenly employed as a substitute teacher. Dewey forms a rock band in his unsuspecting class of private school students and enters them into the local Battle of the Bands. Get ready to rock out like never before with the School of Rock actors playing their own instruments LIVE!

About The Highwood Theatre

The Highwood Theatre is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the community together through theatre. Now in its 15th Season, Highwood's guiding principle is "anyone can do theatre." Highwood was founded in 2004 and began executing its mission through seasons of professional quality theatre featuring all-student casts, design teams, and production staff. In 2013, in conjunction with its relocation to the heart of downtown Silver Spring, The Highwood Theatre expanded to carry out its mission more fully and develop innovative, engaging programming for artists of all ages through professional and student productions, classes, and programs in schools and for home schooled students.

Contact Information

Tickets: <http://www.thehighwoodtheatre.org/tickets.html>

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