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## **Cabaret full of fun, laughs and fishnets**

### [Mima Mohammed](#)



April 17th, 2006 by Mima Mohammed

The cast of Cabaret, which opens Friday, is scantily clad and features a triple threat performers with fantastic acting skills, excellent dance moves especially tap and amazing musical numbers.

The show opens with the number “Willkommen”, sung by the Emcee and other members of the Kit Kat Klub. The Emcee then proceeds to guide the audience through the experiences of Cliff, an aspiring American novelist in 1929 Berlin. He is exposed to the frivolous and carefree attitudes of the Kit Kat Klub and the seductive Sally Bowles. However, the rise of Hitler and its consequences makes itself apparent even in the relationships among those who live in and visit Cliff’s apartment building.

Director Alex Mallory, a sophomore, describes Cabaret as an examination of a Germany in crisis, unable to solve its problems. The musical asks the audience whether it can accept the choices of those who turned their backs on others in order to survive. It vividly portrays an inability to take action caused individual needs and desires, as explained by the Emcee and the Klub.

The polished final product of the musical Cabaret is the culmination of the efforts of numerous people, beginning at the end of last year.

“I applied to produce Cabaret because it’s my senior year, and I felt it would be the best way to complete my time at Stanford. The Ram’s Head spring show is a big project, but one that allows us to display the best we have,” says senior and producer Jeanette Woodburn. “I thought it would be fun, but I had no idea I would enjoy every step of it so much. Watching the first dress rehearsal, all I can think of is that four months ago, I was seeing some of these people for the first time. Seeing the show grow, and seeing the results of everyone’s hard work has been immensely rewarding.”

Preparations for the show began last June. The staff was hired in November and auditions were held in January to select the talented cast.

Cabaret is a production of Ram’s Head Theatrical Society. Funding for the show comes from ticket sales of previous shows, advertisements in their programs, and funding from the Stanford Fund. The cast and staff stayed over spring break to build the set, which was designed by Andrew Reid.

The cast members especially the leads have been spending a lot of time working together, and have gotten to know each other to the point where they can finish each others’ sentences. As such, it’s no surprise that they are so enthusiastic about their castmates’ performances.

“The dancers in Cabaret are incredible there are no weak links in this cast. We are really lucky we get to work in this show and we hope as many people as possible get to see it,” says freshman Amanda Gelender,

in her first Ram's Head production.

Senior Andrew Willis-Woodward agrees.

"I think this is one of the most talented casts I have been a part of. The show has come together to form this poignant piece," he adds.

"Cabaret is one of the most famous and well-liked musicals, [and] the musical we are doing is very different from the movie," says senior Justin Liszanckie, performing in his eighth Stanford show. "Especially for [sophomore] Nisa [Ari] and I, this musical has a lot of meaty acting parts. The entire musical is a huge collaborative process, [and] the show deals with serious issues that resonate with people."

"I think the best thing about Cabaret is that it is not a typical musical," says Ari. "Everything is fine in the first act, and then in the second act, everything goes to shit and at the end, everything goes back together."

The cast offers many reasons Stanford students should see Cabaret, some more important than others.

"We have lots of girls in fishnets," says Liszanckie.

"And that's just plain hot," adds Ari.

Tickets are for assigned seating and can be purchased at [www.cabaret-themusical.com](http://www.cabaret-themusical.com), in White Plaza, or at the door. Cabaret will be showing on this Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15, as well as next Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 20, 21, and 22 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium. Tickets cost \$9 for Stanford students, \$15 for Stanford faculty/staff/alumni and \$18 for the general public.



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