

► In The News

'The Great Gatsby' to be performed at HCC

HOLYOKE – HCC brings Roaring '20s to life with stage production of "The Great Gatsby".

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 Thursday, April 11 to Saturday April 13 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a show at 2 p.m. on April 13 and April 12 show is ASL-interpreted. \$5 (HCC students, staff, and faculty); \$10 (general admission); \$8 (seniors). Available one hour before each show at the Leslie Phillips Box Office or call 413-552-2528 to reserve.

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 long-lost love Daisy Buchanan.

The show opens with a big dance number set to Irving Berlin's "Putting



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," opening April 11.

Submitted photo

on the Ritz." Benny Goodman's "Sing Sing Sing" leads the top of Act 2. 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," HCC Theater Professor and director Patricia Sandoval said, "so they could feel a part of the energy. We wanted the music to be enjoyable."

"I find the story and the characters really compelling," Sandoval said. "The juxtaposition of decadence, elegance, betrayal, and the quest for love. It's the story of humans and the Jazz Age."

Though the story may be familiar to many people, Sandoval hopes audience members see the characters in the HCC production as more than stereotypes.

"A lot has been written about this story, and a lot has been written about F. Scott Fitzgerald," Sandoval said, "but I think what I'm trying to find in it is the hope that the character of Gatsby possesses. Things happen, but we, as humans, keep moving forward, looking for hope and love."