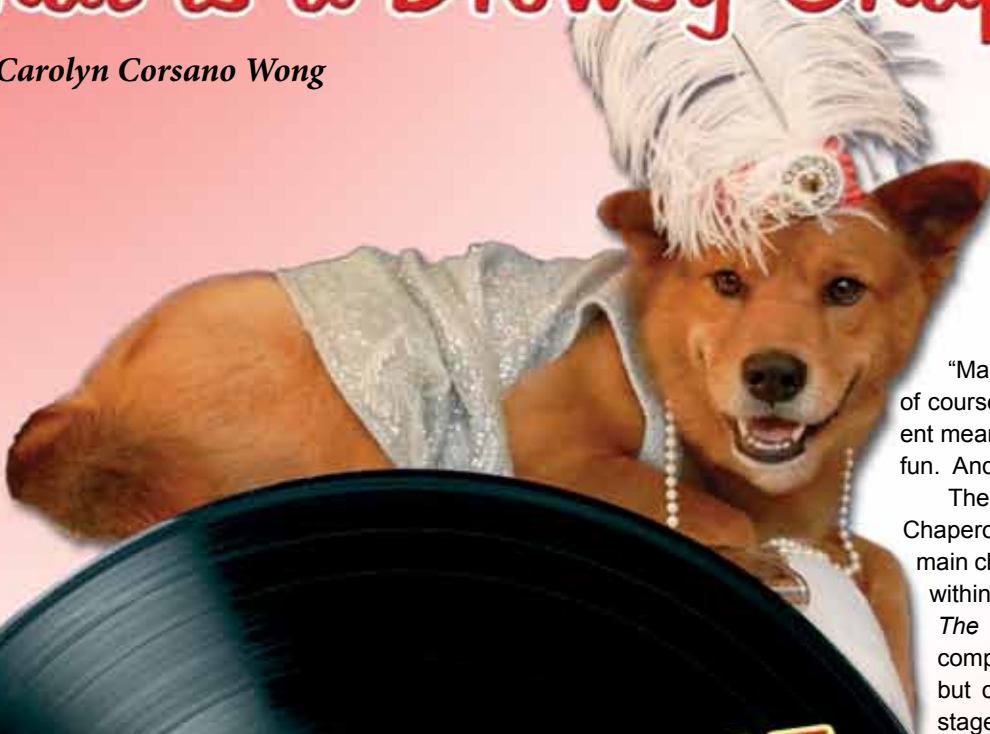


# STAGE RIGHT ASKS

## What is a Drowsy Chaperone?

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong



“Mayhem, mix-ups and a gay wedding, of course the term gay wedding has a different meaning now, but back then it just meant fun. And that’s what this show is, FUN!”

The above description of “The Drowsy Chaperone” is given to us by the show’s main character in this gloriously funny show within a show. The first few minutes of *The Drowsy Chaperone* take place in complete darkness, while an anxious but companionable voice drifts from the stage.

“I hate theater,” the voice says. “Well, it’s so disappointing, isn’t it?” The voice, belongs to the main character called Man in Chair. He relays that as an audience member at a new show he often offers up the prayer that “it be short, free of actors who roam the audience and blessed with a story and a few good songs that will take me away.” The lights come up to reveal this lonely, mousy, agoraphobic, musical theatre fanatic who takes us through the famed (and fictional) musical classic, “The Drowsy Chaperone.” He invites the audience to step back in time to 1928, a time when audiences eagerly awaited the latest from Cole Porter and wondered what the Gershwins have prepared for us. “Now,” the Man says, “it’s, ‘Please, Elton John, must we continue this charade?’”

The fun begins when the he puts on a vinyl record (yes, record!) of his favorite cast album, a 1928 smash hit called “The Drowsy Chaperone” and the show magically bursts to life in his small studio apartment. The outrageous cast of characters are introduced

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to the audience which include a Broadway starlet about to give up the stage to marry the man she loves (or will she?), a harried producer who is trying to convince his star to not give up the stage, gangsters posing as pastry chefs (A trifle too much? One can-noli hope!), a Latin lothario, a dim-witted ch-orine, the also dim-witted yet dashing roller skating tap dancing groom, an anxious best man, a daffy hostess and her upper-crust butler, an aviatrix that pops into the action, and the drowsy (i.e. drunk) chaperone. In the words of our narrator: "What more do you need for an evening's entertainment?" The New York Times proclaimed the show a "happy exercise in escapism, adorned with just enough postmodern footnotes to make you feel all insiderly. It's sort of like being able to eat your cake and diet too."

*The Drowsy Chaperone* comes to the historic Crighton Theatre, 234 N. Main, downtown Conroe from Feb. 15 - Mar. 3, 2013. Call the Box Office at 936-441-7469 or get your tickets online at [www.stage-right.org/tickets](http://www.stage-right.org/tickets). Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and \$15 for kids. Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. As with every STAGE RIGHT show, we are highlighting a need in our community and then throwing a spotlight on that need. Please bring a gift card for donation to the Montgomery County Women's Center when you come to the show.

Footnote: at the time of writing, we had not completed casting the show so STAGE RIGHT mascot Harley Wong has once again volunteered to pose for pictures. Much to Harley's disappointment; there is no dog in the show, or the show within a show either. ♦

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