

Musical rocks the Elgin Opera House

'School of Rock the Musical' opens Sept. 9

By Jennifer Colton
Go! Magazine

ELGIN — The song may tell you to get to school on time, but this month, if you wanna be the "teacher's pet," you better get to the Elgin Opera House on time.

Terry Hale and Caitlin Marshall co-direct the musical based on the movie of the same name.

The story focuses on Dewey Finn (played by Trevor Winder), a musician who is kicked out of his rock band and decides to impersonate his best friend and substitute at a private school to pay the rent.

A former La Grande resident who now lives outside of Portland, Winder is returning to the Opera House stage to play Dewey.

"I think sometimes a role is made for you or you're just made for the role," Winder said. "I'm just a silly goofy guy as it is, and I love kids, love hanging out with kids, so this is just about perfect."

Winder is joined in his classrooms by 16 students. Four of the students will accompany the band live on their instruments: Kaylie Davis on bass, Isaac Morgan on



Jennifer Colton/Go! Magazine

The cast of "School of Rock the Musical" rehearses on Aug. 24, 2022. The show opens Sept. 9 at the Elgin Opera House.

drums, Ely Murphey on guitar, and Henry Wadner on keyboard. The band "No Vacancy" will also perform its songs live.

"Usually you have an orchestra and a pit and you have your actors. Here that all combines together," Hale said. "School of Rock' is different than any show we've done here. After doing over 60 main stage pro-

ductions, finding something unique to do is a real challenge, and this show is unique."

The musical includes all songs from the movie as well as additional music from Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Hale said the show has been a great way to stretch the cast.

"This is a fun show for the entire fam-

ily. Adults will love it, the kids will love it, everyone who comes and sees this show is going to have a great time," he said.

Other cast include Shahayla Ononaiye as Patty Di Marco, Aubrey Winder as principal Rosalie Mullins and Chris Dennett as Dewey's best friend, Ned Schneebly.

"Ned Schneebly is an old school rocker who has grown up, got a real job, and is kind of a timid nerd, but he still has the rock spirit inside him," Dennett said. "I think the most fun part about Ned is that at the end of the play, he lets his inner rocker out completely."

Winder and Dennett both highlighted the rock 'n' roll aspects of the show.

"If you haven't seen a show at the Elgin Opera House, this is the one to see," Winder said.

"It's going to be huge."

"School of Rock the Musical" opens Sept. 9 and runs through Oct. 1.

Friday shows are at 7 p.m. (Sept. 9, 16, 23 and 30). Saturdays feature performances at 12:30 p.m. and at 4:30 p.m. (Sept. 10, 17, 24 and Oct. 1).

Most seats are \$18 (the upper balcony is \$8) and available at www.elginoperahouse.com. For more information, call 541-663-6324



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