

# Top musical talent set to dazzle in KickstArt's 'Chicago'

SOME of Durban's top musicians will be centre stage performing live for every performance of KickstArt's high-kicking razzle-dazzle, Kander and Ebb musical *Chicago*, which comes to UKZN's Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre from Saturday to April 30.

Oozing gritty sex appeal, *Chicago* follows KickstArt's previous cutting-edge contemporary musicals: *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods* and *Cabaret*.

"I'm honoured to be the MD of this production for many reasons. It's the second-longest running show in Broadway history behind *Phantom of the Opera*, the film version won the Academy Award for Best Picture, it's written and composed by musical theatre icons John Kander and Fred Ebb and I am working with nine of Durban's finest musicians," said Evan Roberts.

"The brilliance of the music in *Chicago* is evident not only in the several songs that are instantly recognisable to many, but also in the clever, although complex arrangements which take their inspiration mainly from twenties jazz, with elements of circus, opera,



The band for the musical *Chicago* (back, from left): Sidney Rash (drums), Salim Washington (sax, clarinet and flute), Reanne de Klerk (sax and clarinet), Jane Baillie (violin), Ryan Canning (piano), Ildo Nandja (bass), (front, from left) Siyanda Zulu (trumpet, from Pietermaritzburg), Evan Roberts (MD, conductor and piano) and Duncan Woolridge (trombone).

**PHOTO: VAL ADAMSON**

and others. The music, storyline and character portrayal reflect themes we are accustomed to today: crime, sex, murder, alcohol and celebrity, to reflect the human condition as perceived in the twenties and today."

*Chicago* centres on vaudevillian showgirl Velma Kelly (Katy Moore) and housewife Roxie Hart (Jessica Sole), two murderers who find themselves in jail awaiting trial — fighting for the fame that will keep them from the gallows. Also in the cast are Billy (Jason Ralph), Mama Morton (Charon Williams Ros), Mary Sunshine (Anne Marie Clulow) and Amos (Bryan Hiles). — Supplied.

*Chicago* will be staged in the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre from Saturday until April 30. Booking is at [www.computicket.co.za](http://www.computicket.co.za) or on 0861 915 8000 or at Shoprite Checkers Money Market Counters.

For inquiries for block bookings of 50 or more people or entire performances, contact Ailsa Windsor of Going Places at [editor.goingplacesa@gmail.com](mailto:editor.goingplacesa@gmail.com), or on 083 250 2690. For more info, visit [www.kickstarttheatre.co.za](http://www.kickstarttheatre.co.za)