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Great-West Life
ASSURANCE COMPANY
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NOV. 21 – DEC. 27, 2009

Book by Jeffrey Lane | Music and Lyrics by David Yazbek | Based on the film Dirty Rotten Scoundrels written by Dale Launer & Stanley Shapiro & Paul Henning | Directed and choreographed by Max Reimer

A PLAYHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

PLAY GUIDE

PART 2: LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

Springboard Questions | Grade 9 and up

Created by Joshua Weiss, Tamanawis Secondary School, PTAB* Member

DOWNLOAD OTHER PARTS (GLOSSARY, QUOTES, LINKS)

AND MORE LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES AT VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM

Created to provide you with explorations and insights into this production beyond the actual performance, this Play Guide includes information on its creators and characters, notable quotables and more:

You can download additional suggested practical lessons and activities at vancouverplayhouse.com! As a teacher, you can adapt these to your classroom activities before or after your performance. As a parent, you can draw on some activities to enhance your child's theatre experience. And, as a patron at large, these activities might stimulate your own exploration or offer a new insight into the production.

***Playhouse Teachers Advisory Board**

SPRINGBOARD QUESTIONS

Type: pre- and post-viewing | **Suitability:** grade 9 and up

These questions should be posed to the students before the play to help guide their viewing. In the post viewing, these questions should be used as a starting point/springboard to generate discussion after viewing the production, or used as written assignment topics.

Plot/ character:

- Both Lawrence and Freddy are con men. They have very different styles of conning women. Watch for and identify the differences in their tactics and how they extort money and valuable out of their victims. Notice how different each man is in attempting to get what they want.
- Dirty Rotten Scoundrels is a musical adapted to the stage from the 1988 film of the same name. How does the musical compare to the film? What are the similarities and differences between the two?
- Identify the current pop culture references included in the 2004 musical that would not have been in the 1988 film version.
- Andre plays Lawrence's sidekick and partner in crime in the musical. What makes this character? What purpose does he serve for Lawrence? What purpose does he serve for the musical?
- Do the actors who play Lawrence and Freddy live up to the title of the play of being Dirty Rotten Scoundrels? Rotten, sneaky, phony, sleazy, tricky, filthy, shameless, lying, cheating. Are these characters as despicable as the title suggests?

Vocabulary - a partial list of terms referenced in the musical:

Beaumont sur Mer - Lawrence's home base fictional town on the French Riviera.

Infidel - One who has no religious beliefs or who doubts or rejects a particular doctrine, system, or principle.
nom de guerre - A fictitious name; a pseudonym.

Hef - Reference made to Hugh Hefner, founder of Playboy magazine, icon representing excess and chauvanism.

Blotto - Very drunk; so drunk as to be unconscious or not know what one is doing.

Grotto - A small cave or cavern. An artificial structure or excavation made to resemble a cave or cavern.

Hamptons - An elite resort town in South East New Hampshire.

Escoffier's Book - A heavily abridged American version of Auguste Escoffier's 1903 book "Guide Culinaire", which looks at the art of professional European cookery at the beginning of the 20th century.

Taxidermy - The art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of dead animals in a felike state.

Ulcerated - To develop an ulcer.

Abattoir - A slaughterhouse.

Samovar - A metal container used for heating and brewing tea. It can be urn shaped with a faucet or spout at the bottom used to fill cups with tea.