

english dramatic society

## 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary production



**Come and join us before the performance from 7pm each evening for American-style entertainment in front of the theatre.**

Pre-show entertainment includes an All-American parade fair with opening ceremony, fairground stalls, drinks, sweets, surprises and more. Come along and enjoy yourselves before the performance begins.

**Our 40 days until opening night video countdown is now online. 40 years english dramatic society, 40 days until opening night, 40 videos.**

<http://www.english-dramatic-society.de/promotional-videos-40-days-countdown.html>

**Reserve tickets online from Monday 2nd July 2012 or purchase in advance from 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Group reservations can also be made prior to these dates to:**

[info@english-dramatic-society.de](mailto:info@english-dramatic-society.de)

[www.english-dramatic-society.de](http://www.english-dramatic-society.de)

# The Matchmaker - the plot

Horace Vandergelder is a wealthy hardware store owner in Yonkers, America. He lives in his home above the shop together with his niece Ermengarde. Ermengarde is in love with an artist, Mr. Ambrose Kemper and they are planning to get married. Mr. Vandergelder, however, is of the opinion that an artist cannot provide for a family and children and he therefore sends Ermengarde away to New York in order to keep her from marrying Ambrose.

In the meantime, Mrs. Dolly Levi has arrived in Yonkers in order to pick up Ermengarde and accompany her to New York. Mrs. Levi is a matchmaker, who has agreed to find a suitable bride for Mr. Vandergelder as he intends to remarry. She is already responsible for his acquaintance with Mrs. Molloy, a hat shop owner from New York, and Mr. Vandergelder has made plans to visit her again in New York and propose marriage to her. Mrs. Levi doesn't know about these plans yet and so she is surprised by his decision. As she is also interested in him and his money and doesn't want him to get married just yet, Mrs. Levi quickly invents another woman in order to keep him from proposing to Mrs. Molloy.

At the same time Cornelius and Barnaby, Mr. Vandergelder's shop assistants are planning on secretly going to New York as well to live life to the full and have some adventures. They are frustrated with their job in the store and the fact that they never get the chance to have some free time, and when Mr. Vandergelder - or Wolf-trap, as they call him - announces that he will be out of town, they seize the moment and steal away.

With the help of Mrs. Levi, Ambrose and Ermengarde also steal away and instead of going to Aunt Flora's, where Mr. Vandergelder had wanted Ermengarde to go, they go to the Harmonia Gardens restaurant to have a meal.

Mr. Vandergelder and Mrs. Levi go to visit Mrs. Molloy in her hat shop and Cornelius and Barnaby, after almost bumping into Vandergelder in the park, also end up in Mrs. Molloy's hat shop, where they once again have to hide from Mr. Vandergelder.

Cornelius falls in love with Mrs. Molloy and after being almost discovered by Mr. Vandergelder in the hat shop, Mrs. Molloy and her assistant Minnie insist on being taken out to dinner to make up for the disgrace they caused them. Together they go to the Harmonia Gardens restaurant.

Mr. Vandergelder, disappointed with the visit at Mrs. Molloy's hat shop, also arrives at the Harmonia Gardens restaurant thinking that he will get to meet the wonderful woman Mrs. Levi had been talking about earlier. He watches Ermengarde and Ambrose arrive at the restaurant and immediately plots that they be taken to Miss Flora Van Huysen's house and kept there until he comes.

At the restaurant Cornelius and Barnaby almost bump into Vandergelder again and after a lot of confusion and a case of mistaken identities everything seems to get back in order. But will Ambrose and Ermengarde finally get married? What will happen to Cornelius and Barnaby and who will Mr. Vandergelder end up marrying? That remains to be seen.