

ABOUT

Spearheaded by the incomparable George Abbot, *DAMN YANKEES* premiered in May, 1955, appropriately at the start of baseball season. Along with his partners, Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, Abbot adapted this devilishly clever story from Douglass Wallop's book, *The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant* into one of the most quintessentially American musicals of all time. The show would go on to garner eleven Tony Awards® including Best Musical, Best Performance by a Leading Actress (Gwen Verdon as Lola) and Best Choreography (Bob Fosse).

CHARACTERS

JOE BOYD – A real-estate agent and passionate baseball fan, Joe is sick of his favorite team losing and would even sell his soul if it meant seeing his team win.

MEG BOYD – Joe's wife who wishes her husband would pay more attention to her during baseball season. When he vanishes, she remains loyal to him, hoping for his return.

MR. APPEGATE – The devil undercover as a suave agent. In exchange for Joe's soul, Applegate offers him the chance to be the secret weapon for the Washington Senators have been waiting.

JOE HARDY – The superstar baseball player that Applegate turns Joe into in exchange for his soul.

GLORIA THORPE – The newspaper reporter with a keen interest in this new Joe Hardy and his mysterious arrival.

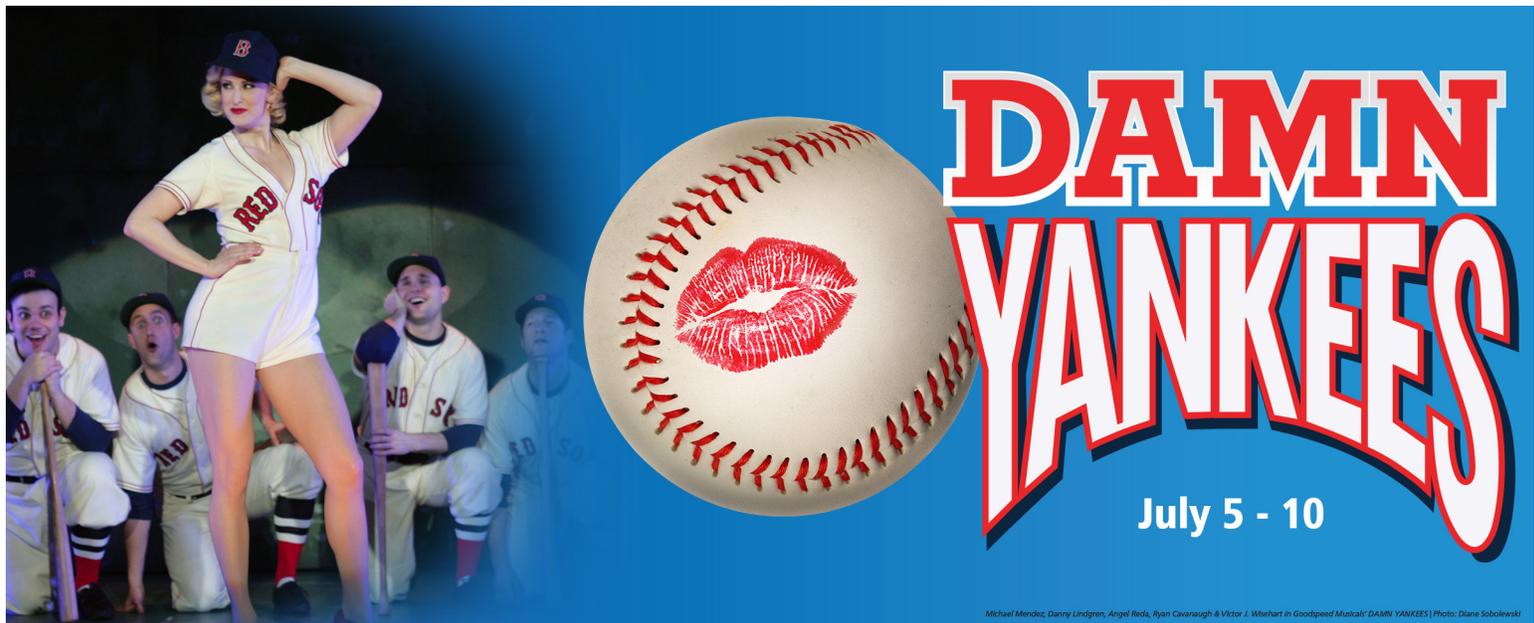
LOLA – Mr. Applegate's go-to girl who's meant to keep Joe's mind off of Meg, but ends up developing feelings for him.

SISTER AND DORIS – Bridge club buddies of Meg. Avid baseball fans themselves, these two can't get enough of the new Senators superstar.

BENNY VAN BUREN – The Washington Senators encouraging manager.

CONTENT

Recommended for ages 6 years and over.



SYNOPSIS **ACT ONE:**

Joe Boyd is the Washington Senators' number one fan. His commitment to this ball club is showcased immediately as he ignores his wife Meg's attempts at conversation in favor of watching the game on TV. When Meg goes to bed, Applegate – the devil incarnated as a sports agent – appears to Joe and transforms him into an all-star slugger named Joe Hardy with the promise that he will help the Senators win the pennant in exchange for his soul. This is an especially appealing offer since it includes the chance to take down the Senators' number one rival: the Yankees. Joe agrees, but insists on an escape clause. Applegate thus decides that Joe has until the day before the Senators' last game to abandon the deal.

Despite feeling guilty for leaving Meg, Joe goes with Applegate to meet the team. Van Buren, the manager of the Senators, is suspicious of this newcomer and puts him to the test. It doesn't take long for the entire team to be in awe of Joe's talent. He leads them to victory time and time again, becoming a sensation. Gloria, a newspaper reporter, continues to prod Joe and Applegate seeking answers about his past, never satisfied with the vague answers she receives.

Joe begins to feel homesick for his real life and returns to Meg's house in search of a room to rent. Her friends, Sister and Doris, recognize him immediately as the famous Joe Hardy and ask him for autographs. Meg informs Joe that she misses her husband, but has faith he will return to her. Applegate tries to sabotage this reunion by claiming to be a representative of the city council who is enforcing a new ordinance that prevents people from renting out their homes.

Applegate, fearing that Joe is drifting too far from his mission, recruits the help of Lola. Lola is his go-to girl for wreaking havoc and seducing men into submission. When she confronts Joe, she's amazed at his loyalty to his wife and his polite refusal to fall into her trap.

Meanwhile, Gloria again confronts Applegate after discovering indubitably that Joe Hardy is not who he says he is. Applegate leads her to believe that he may really be Shifty McCoy – a ballplayer who took a bribe in another league and threw a game on purpose. One of Joe's teammates, Welch, rushes to Joe before they attend a tribute in his honor, and informs him of the speculation that he is McCoy. If he can't clear his name, then he won't be able to keep playing.

ACT TWO:

Without Joe playing, the team is in a slump, but they encourage one another by reflecting on the importance of the game. Meanwhile, Joe visits Meg again and is touched by her devotion and faith in him. Applegate continues to fear that he's losing control of the situation.

Joe is taken to court to defend himself against the accusations, though since he does not technically exist, producing evidence of his history is impossible. Applegate intentionally stalls the hearing, attempting to force Joe to miss his escape clause deadline. Lola drugs Applegate with sleeping pills, giving her and Joe a brief amount of time to discuss their next moves.

What follows is the big game for the pennant against the Yankees. Will Joe hit it out of the park or completely strike out? Find out in Pittsburgh CLO's production of *DAMN YANKEES*, running July 5-10 at the Benedum Center!