



# Staten Island Advance

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## Adulting with puppets

*'Avenue Q' is 'Date night, not family night'*

by VICTORIA PRIOLA

Don't let those fuzzy little puppets fool you: You are about to get a raunchy, riotous class in "adulting."

Wagner College Theatre takes its audience on a journey through adulthood as the irreverent-but-heartwarming musical comedy "Avenue Q" takes the Main Stage from Sept. 29-Oct. 9.

"We've been trying to do this for a while," said director Ryan Gibbs. "We started trying for this in 2013. We were waiting for the right cast at the right time."

### **'THE SHOW IS FOR DATE NIGHT, NOT FAMILY NIGHT'**

The puppet production touches upon myriad millennial college kid dilemmas: Paying bills, landing a decent job, surfing the web for sex, drinking and having one night stands.

"It's like Sesame Street for 22-year-olds," said Gibbs, chuckling.

Parental guidance suggested: Wagner College Theatre warns that the show will also contain puppet nudity and adult language. You've been warned.

Jennifer Barnhart — the original puppeteer when the show hit Broadway in 2003 — trained the Wagner cast using authentic "Avenue Q" puppets straight from the London production. BTW: Gibbs and Barnhart go way back because they worked together (he was the stage manager) on the national tour of the Tony-winning show.

The student cast features Daniel Marconi (as Princeton/Rod), Brianna Brice (Kate Monster/Lucy), Gregory Ippolito (Nicky/Trekkie Monster), Nicholas Manna (Brian), Mari Skoultschi (Christmas Eve), Sydni Session (Gary Coleman), Eric Elson, Stephen Kallas, Sabrina Kalman, Sammy Quinn, and Natalie Schaffer.

### **THE OFFICIAL PLOT SYNOPSES**

"A hilariously adult take on classic children's characters. This laugh-out-loud musical tells the timeless story of a bright-eyed college grad named Princeton. When he arrives in the city with big dreams and a tiny bank account, he has to move into a shabby apartment all the way out on AVENUE Q. Still, the neighbors seem nice. There, he meets Kate (the girl next door), Lucy (the slut), Rod (the Republican), Trekkie (the pervert), superintendent Gary Coleman (yes, that Gary Coleman) and other new friends! Together, they struggle to find jobs, dates, and their ever-elusive purpose in life."

### **IF YOU GO TO THE SHOW ...**

"Avenue Q" will crack up the Wagner College stage from September 29 until October 9 in the Main Hall Auditorium.

Ticket prices vary depending on which day you go and what section you'd like to sit in. On Thursday's, tickets for best available seating are \$29 for adults and \$27 for seniors. For mid-

section, tickets are \$27 for adults and \$25 for seniors. For the back section, tickets are \$25 for adults and \$23 for seniors.

For the weekend, adult tickets are \$32 for best available, \$30 for middle section and \$28 for back row. For seniors, tickets are \$30 for best available, \$28 for mid-section and \$26 for the back section.

If you decide to bring children to the show, tickets will be \$18 for them no matter what night you go.

Located in Main Hall, the Wagner College Theatre box office can be contacted at 718-390-3259 or [boxoffice@wagner.edu](mailto:boxoffice@wagner.edu). Box office hours are Monday through Friday, noon-4 p.m.