

Premiere shows of Legally Blonde come to the city

What's fun, pink and fluffy? Legally Blonde the Musical of course. The popular story of pretty Elle Woods and her mission to overcome prejudice at Harvard is being brought to the stage by caods - Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

It's the premiere of the show in Chelmsford, as it's never been put on in the city before.

Made famous by the hit film starring Reese Witherspoon, the show has been adapted for the stage, complete with funky music and modern dance routines.

The show begins when Elle is unceremoniously dumped by her boyfriend Warner, as he deems her too dumb and ditzzy for his new studies at Harvard Law School. Outraged, Elle manages to win a place there too, and sets about trying to prove herself to the snobby Warner, and everyone else at the prestigious college.

Accompanied by her faithful companion Bruiser the Chihuahua, Elle ends up working on a high-profile legal case where her natural brains and affinity with people are allowed to shine. But will she win and prove everyone wrong? Along the way she also makes a lifelong friend in Paulette, and helps her win back her pet pooch Rufus the bulldog.

The dogs in the production are played by real-life pets Huli and Casey-Lulu - and are guaranteed to bring some extra fun to the show

"They say never work with animals but we've got a double dose of dogs," laughed caods vice chairman Claire Carr. "Legally Blonde is a new musical so the music is funky and there are some brilliant, modern dance routines. We're hoping it will pull in a really good audience, including those who don't normally come to our shows. We've had lots of interest from younger people who love the film and are attracted by the modern music - there's a rap in there too.

"Women will love it because Elle is funny and inspirational, men will love it because it's such an entertaining show, and younger people will love it because it's so much fun and the music is great.

"It is a really funny show but there's the underlying theme that it doesn't matter what you look like - if you put your heart and soul into something and work hard, then you can achieve anything. As Elle says in the show 'Being true to yourself never goes

out of style'. Elle is the focus of the show - everything revolves around her. What's great about her character is that she doesn't have a bad bone in her body, she sees good in everyone and everything."

The cast of caods have been rehearsing hard since October to perfect the show including its tricky harmonies and complex dance routines.

"The opening number of act two is a real showstopper," Claire said. "We're incredibly proud of it and everyone

has worked so hard.

Caods are always interested in hearing from new members, whether it's to act, help out backstage, or with costumes. Anyone who is interested should contact the company via www.caods.com

Legally Blonde The Musical is showing at the Civic Theatre Chelmsford from Tuesday, March 1 to Saturday, March 5. Performances are at 7.30pm, with a 3pm matinee on Saturday.

Tickets are £14 on Tuesday and Wednesday, and £17 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

■ Visit caods.com or www.chelmsford.gov.uk/theatres for details and bookings.



STARS OF THE SHOW: Keeley Denman as Elle Woods with Huli playing the part of Bruiser the chihuahua