

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS

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Book by **Jeffrey Lane**

Music and Lyrics by **David Yazbek**

Based on the film *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* written by **Dale Launer** and **Stanley Shapiro & Paul Henning**

Original Broadway production directed by **Jack O'Brien**

Directed by **Bobby Garcia**

Choreographed by **Stephanie Graham**

GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Grade 9+

CONTENT ADVISORY

The show explores mature subject matter. It includes coarse language and sexual innuendo. It uses humour to expose harmful stereotypes about gender and disability.

[Please see the show page for more information.](#)

SYNOPSIS

Lawrence Jameson is no stranger to the high life—he's lived it for years by separating lonely rich ladies from their fortunes in a swanky Riviera town. When he and his chief competitor in the con business, Freddy Benson, make a bet to swindle an heiress out of \$50,000, the professional scoundrels soon discover they may not always be the smartest people in the room. Based on the hit 1988 film, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, the musical comedy earned 11 Tony Award nominations for its hilarious hijinks and frivolity—beautifully reminiscent of an earlier age.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Innovation and Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Global Citizenship and Sustainability

GRADES 9-12

- The Arts
- English
- Health and Physical Education

GRADES 11-12

- Social Sciences and Humanities

POST-SECONDARY

- Suitable for courses in disciplines such as Arts, Cultural Studies, Creative Writing, Drama and Theatre, English, Fine Arts, Gender Studies, Music, Musical Theatre, Teacher Education

THEMES

- The Anti-Hero
- The Art of the Con
- Authenticity
- Class
- Comedy and Humour
- Competition and Rivalry
- Confidence and Insecurity
- Deception and Manipulation
- Ethics and Morality
- Gender and Access to Power
- Love and Connection
- Performance
- Wealth and Greed

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- In what ways can competition drive us to be our best? Conversely, how might competition affect our integrity? Considering the impacts of competition on human beings, do you think it is ultimately a force for good or one for bad?
- Why do you think audiences sometimes end up rooting for con artists in stories of deceit?
- Is it ever okay to trick someone? Why or why not?

STUDY GUIDES

[View](#) all 2025 Shorts and Study Guides for selected 2025 plays along with those from previous seasons free of charge.



[Stratford Public Library's 2025 Season Reading Lists](#)

BOOKING INFORMATION: TICKETS, WORKSHOPS AND CHATS

STUDENT MATINÉES

You may book any available date, but selected student matinée performances for this show are at 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, May 7
- Friday, May 9
- Wednesday, May 14
- Thursday, May 15
- Monday, May 26
- Tuesday, June 3
- Tuesday, June 10
- Friday, June 13
- Wednesday, June 18
- Thursday, June 19
- Wednesday, June 25
- Friday, September 5
- Tuesday, September 9
- Friday, September 12
- Tuesday, September 23
- Thursday, September 25
- Friday, October 3
- Tuesday, October 7
- Thursday, October 9
- Tuesday, October 21

WORKSHOPS & CHATS

Workshops and Chats (virtual, onsite or at your school/centre) can be booked by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600 or by emailing educate@stratfordfestival.ca

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