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## **Regional Reviews: Phoenix**

## She Loves Me

Mesa Community College

Review by Gil Benbrook | Season Schedule

Also see Gil's recent reviews of 1776 and Dracula

The charming and utterly romantic musical *She Loves Me* tells the story of two shop employees who can't stand each other, even though, unbeknownst to them, they are actually pen pals who are falling in love through the frequent heartfelt letters they exchange. Mesa Community College presents a beautiful, large scale production of this jewel of a musical with a fine cast, clear direction, and lovely creative elements.

Set in 1934, the story centers on the co-workers of a Budapest parfumerie. Amalia Balash, the shop's newest sales clerk, has pinned her romantic hopes on the man she has been writing to for months, even though she has never met him or seen a picture of him. She constantly spars with her fellow clerk Georg Nowack, whom she finds bossy and somewhat rude. While Georg does occasionally lash out at Amalia, that is mostly due to her lateness or the fact that for some unknown reason Mr.



Lana Shumway and Ben Robbins

Photo by Allyson Van Patten

Maraczek, the owner of the shop, has turned sour on Georg which has put him on edge. Little do Amalia and Georg know but they are each other's "Dear Friend". the pen pal they have each been writing to.

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