

# Brendan Powers *takes-off* at the Florida Rep

By: Yohana de la Torre

The Florida Repertory Theatre is ready for take-off with Brendan Powers as Bernard.

Originally from Danvers, Massachusetts, Powers got into acting at a young age. He admits to pursuing his passion because he felt like a natural on stage.

"In high school, I knew there was a theatre program, but I was too nervous to join," he says. "I finally mustered up the courage when I was a sophomore. There was something inexplicable about it. It was natural."

Powers goes on to explain how he studied at Niagara University in New York. He holds a BFA in Theatre Studies and a Masters in English from St. John's University.

For some time, Powers taught and ran the Theatre Department at Niagara after his mentor retired. But he got back into acting and directing full time in the last few years.

"Acting feels like something I have to do," he adds. "Over the course of my career, I've done other things and nothing feels as right, or as at home, or as natural as being in the room with other actors and directors. It's sort of an inherent feeling I've always had."

And this inherent feeling has helped Powers enjoy a prolific career in theatre. On stage, he's had a number of roles including the Tony Award-winning play, *Art*, opposite Alec Baldwin,



*Star Crossed Lovers* with the Southwest Florida Symphony, and stage productions like *Chicago*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Laramie Project*, *Pajama Game* and Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* to name a few.

As a director, Powers has led the casts of *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks*, *The Laramie Project*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *Dead Man Walking*.

For a year now, Powers has been working with the Florida Repertory's amazing team. He's taken part of productions like *Doubt*, *Breaking Legs*, *The*

*Glass Menagerie*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa* to list some. His most recent role is the likable and theatrical persona Bernard in the Rep's season opener *Boeing-Boeing*.

Hitting the big stage October 30, *Boeing-Boeing* is a hilarious 1960s tale of a well-to-do architect living in Paris that has been successfully juggling three flight attendant fiancées. But when an old pal visits, turbulence is in the skies for Bernard. Schedules change, flights are delayed and chaos brings a whirl of confusion in the game of love.

"*Boeing-Boeing* is a funny, funny comedy," Powers says with a chuckle. "The role of Bernard calls upon many different skills. Since the play is a silly farce, it involves setup, delivery, timing and pace from my role."

The forgotten contemporary comedy that won multiple Tony Awards has been brilliantly brought back to life by director Robert Cacioppo. It is a pure pleasure and soars with its simplistic plot, funny characters, and great antics.

Approaching the role with focus, pleasure and fun in mind, Powers admits he gets a great form of inspiration from the stage.

"A love of theatre, an appreciation, and a passion for the craft itself is important when an actor is trying to embody a role," he says. "Bernard is a very enjoyable character to play. And the adaptation of the production has helped me embody the character creatively."

With nothing but high-flying humor in mind, Powers and the cast promise one heck of a show. So, fasten your seatbelts and prepare for one comical start to a great season.

**- *Boeing-Boeing* runs October 30 - November 21, 2009 at the Florida Repertory Theatre, located at 2267 1st Street in Fort Myers, FL. For tickets, please contact the box office at (239) 332-4488!**