

# James Naughton to Direct Cole Porter Musical Revue

Westport Country Playhouse announces that two-time Tony Award-winner, film star and Weston resident James Naughton will direct the lively song and dance revue, *Hot 'n' Cole: A Cole Porter Celebration!*, playing June 10 - 28.

*Hot 'n' Cole* celebrates the life of one of the great songwriting masters in American musical history. The revue is jam-packed with fresh arrangements and contemporary twists on 48 Cole Porter standards, including *You're the Top*, *It's De-Lovely*, *Night and Day*, *I Love Paris*, *Anything Goes*, *Just One of Those Things* and *In the Still of the Night*. The revue is devised by David Armstrong, Mark Waldrop and Bruce W. Coyle; musical arrangements by Coyle.

From Broadway and regional theater to television and films, Naughton has won critical acclaim in dramas, comedies and musicals. He is the winner of two Tony Awards as best actor in a musical. For his portrayal of media-savvy lawyer Billy Flynn in the Broadway

hit *Chicago* (1997) and for his role as a film-noir era detective in *City of Angels* (1990), which also earned him a Drama Desk Award. He met equal success with his solo concert/cabaret acts, *James Naughton Live*, at the Manhattan Theater Club, *Street of Dreams* and his most recent *Looking for the Heart of Saturday Night*. *Street of Dreams*, was presented by Mike Nichols, was staged at Westport Country Playhouse for a critically acclaimed two-week run in 1999, and *Looking for the Heart of Saturday Night* was at the Playhouse for a limited engagement in 2006.

A graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, Naughton made his New York debut as Edmund in Arvin Brown's production of *Long Day's Journey into Night*, winning immediate recognition with Theatre World, New York Drama Critics and Vernon Rice awards for his performance. His other Broadway credits include *Democracy*, *Four Baboons Advancing the Sun*, *I Love My Wife* and *Whose*

*Life Is It Anyway?* Off-Broadway, he has appeared in E.L. Doctorow's *Drinks Before Dinner* and *Losing Time*.

Both a prolific performer and director at the Williamstown Theater Festival, he directed a critically acclaimed production of *The Price*, which moved to Broadway in the winter of 1999 and received a Tony nomination. He directed a 2002 production of *Our Town* on Broadway starring Paul Newman, which originated at Westport Country Playhouse and was taped for Showtime and PBS, as well as directing *The Good German* for Westport Country Playhouse in 2003.

Naughton was most recently seen opposite Meryl Streep in the hit film *The Devil Wears Prada*. His other film credits include *The Good Mother* opposite Diane Keaton; *The Glass Menagerie* with Joanne Woodward; *The Paper Chase*; *First Kid*; *Cat's Eye*; *A Stranger Is Watching*; *Second Wind* and more recently *Labor Pains*. He has

appeared in such television movies as *Travelin' Man*, *Necessity*, *Last of the Great Survivors*, *The Bunker* and *Look Homeward Angel*. More recently, Naughton starred in *The Birds II* for Showtime and the return of *Cagney and Lacey*. He has also starred in a number of network television series, including *Who's the Boss?*, *Making the Grade*, *Planet of the Apes*, *Fairly and Co.*, *Brooklyn Bridge*, *The Cosby Mysteries*, *Ally McBeal* as Ally McBeal's father, and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*.

*Hot 'n' Cole* is sponsored by U.S. Trust and Cohen and Wolf. Board of trustees sponsors are Barbara and John Samuelson and Sharon Sullivan and Jeff Kindler.

The performance schedule is Tuesday at 8 p.m., Wednesday at 2 and 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Special series will feature previews, opening nights, TalkBack Thursdays, prologue, Symposium Sundays, Backstage Pass and open captioning.

For subscriptions, single tickets or more information, call the box office at (203) 227-4177, or toll-free



JAMES NAUGHTON

at 1-888-927-7529, or visit Powers Court, off Route 1, Westport. Information about the Playhouse is also available at [www.westportplayhouse.org](http://www.westportplayhouse.org)