There are certain iconic characters that have helped to shape the way we look at the world. Mickey Mouse, James Bond, Darth Vader ... they have all had an impact on society as well as in the lives of millions of people.

What's rare, however, is to have the opportunity to see those characters in person. Thursday through Sunday, audiences at the Anderson University Henderson Auditorium will have the first chance to see one when the stage production of "Mary Poppins" raises the curtain.

The South Carolina School of the Arts presents the Broadway production of the Disney classic, "Mary Poppins" with all the whimsical tales and wonderful morals that go along with it. Only recently made available to theater companies across the country, the Anderson University Theatre production of the classic is the first one in the state of the South Carolina and is sure to bring out the young and young-at-heart all weekend long.

"This is the first nonprofessional production of the musical in the entire region," said David Larson, director of the play. "'Mary Poppins' has just been released for public performance and we are the first university to perform the musical in the Carolinas."

The story is a faithful retelling of the famous "Mary Poppins" movie starring Julie Andrews in one of the roles that defined her film career. The original music by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman is all there and the story is based on the book by Julian Fellows. There also are a few new songs thrown into the mix that bring "Mary Poppins" to life and offer a few surprises along the way.

Of course, a show like this is popular and tickets have been selling fast and furious. They are still available at $15 for general admission, $10 for seniors and military and $5 for students under 18 or those with a valid college ID.

The show is filled with more than 40 students with many pursuing their Bachelors of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre.
And as a special addition, you can be assured that Mary and Bert will be flying at some point in the production.

"Mary Poppins" will start at 7:30 p.m. each night through Sunday at the Henderson Auditorium on the campus of Anderson University off Boulevard in Anderson. For more information, call 864.231.2080.

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