

SPEAKEASY

A New Musical

Book, Music & Lyrics by Waymon Hudson



THE STORY

A Look Inside the Velvet Boot

1927. Chicago is dry, the law is watching, and behind an unmarked door the Velvet Boot is roaring. It is a queer speakeasy: jazz, drag, bathtub gin, and the one room in the city where the people the world tried to erase get to be gilded, loud, and entirely themselves. Merc runs the floor on wit and heartbreak. Miss Addie holds it all together. Frankie works the bar. It is a sanctuary built from nothing, and it is the closest thing any of them have to home.

Then Jules, a police sergeant's daughter raised on shame, follows the music down the stairs, and Rome, the poet son of a bootlegging kingpin, looks up from the piano. They fall the way they are not supposed to, across every line drawn to keep them apart, and the fragile, joyful world the Velvet Boot built begins to draw the exact attention it has survived by avoiding.

As the raids close in and two families collide, the people of the Velvet Boot face the oldest question there is for anyone the world wants gone: how much are you willing to pay to keep the lights on, and to be seen out loud.

The romance is the spark. The community is the fire. *Speakeasy* is a jazz-fueled musical about joy as resistance, drawn from the real, nearly-erased history of the Pansy Craze.

The full story is coming to the stage. Hear the music now at waymonhudson.com