



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

New Village Arts Presents

FUN HOME

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel

Directed by Kym Pappas

Music Direction by Korrie Yamaoka

Choreography by Patrick Mayuyu

January 26 – March 3, 2024

Opening Night: Saturday, Feb 3 at 7:30pm

For immediate release: January 5th, 2024

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Carlsbad, CA—**New Village Arts (NVA)**, North County's cultural hub, announces our first production of the new year, the coming of age musical FUN HOME based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel, with book and lyrics by Lisa Kron and music by Jeanine Tesori. This will be the second fully staged musical presented on the newly named Ray Charles Stage in the Conrad Prebys Theatre at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center. FUN HOME will run from February 3rd to March 3rd, 2024. Previews will be held from January 26th to February 2nd.

FUN HOME, the groundbreaking Broadway musical set to captivate audiences, delves into the complexities of family, identity, and self-discovery. Adapted from Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir, the

storyline follows the journey of Alison as she reflects on her upbringing and grapples with her relationship with her enigmatic father. The narrative unfolds through different stages of Alison's life, seamlessly blending humor, heartache, and poignant moments as it explores themes of acceptance and understanding. This Tony-Award winning musical invites audiences to come to a fuller understanding of the journey of coming out and stepping up for yourself, while promising a compelling and emotionally resonant experience, allowing theatergoers to embark on a powerful exploration of one woman's quest for truth and connection within the confines of her family's home. NVA's Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner included the musical in the season because "The LGBTQIA+ community in the United States is experiencing unprecedented attacks due to fear and a lack of understanding. It's more important than ever that we tell stories like this that help our community have greater empathy and understanding, and recognize the beautiful humanity in each one of us."

The musical features powerful songs such as "Ring of Keys," a touching exploration of a young Alison's realization of her identity, and "Changing My Major," a joyous and humorous expression of newfound love. With a compelling storyline and unforgettable musical numbers, FUN HOME promises to deliver a captivating and emotionally resonant theatrical experience for audiences at New Village Arts.

FUN HOME will be directed by award-winning San Diego-based artist Kym Pappas, who was recently seen onstage at New Village Arts in JEZ BUTTERWORTH'S THE FERRYMAN, and DOUBT: A PARABLE, When asked about her participation, Pappas states: "FUN HOME is an excavation of family and self, an exploration of memory and truth, and ultimately a reckoning... rooted in yearning and love. Alison Bechdel gifted us all with her story, and I feel so incredibly lucky that New Village Arts trusted me to help tell it."

This production will feature many returning artists to our stage. Rae Henderson-Gray returns, after her outstanding performance as The Witch in INTO THE WOODS in 2022, as the musical's narrator and center focus, Alison. "Being a part of *Fun Home* is so meaningful to me because this show was the first time I ever saw myself represented in musical theatre. It's an art form I've loved my whole life, but until *Fun Home* it never really saw me back. It's such an honor to bring to life Bechdel's story - she's an absolute icon whose work has had a huge impact on my community and has really shaped lesbian culture for decades now," expresses Henderson-Gray, who is eager to share her story with audiences.

Alison's younger selves will be portrayed by Priya Richard and Lena Palke, both of whom were seen last year in JEZ BUTTERWORTH'S THE FERRYMAN. Other cast members include Brent Roberts** as Bruce Bechdel; Sarah Alida LeClair as Helen Bechdel; Zayden McHardy as Christian Bechdel; Leo Jones as John Bechdel; and Lisette Velandia as Joan. Kris Bona, who was last seen in our 2019 production of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS will take the stage in numerous roles, including Roy, Mark, Pete, and Bobby Jeremy. Kris Bona, Katheryn McNellen, Georgia Filipovitch, and Kevin Phan will act as swings for the production.

Cast and Designers

Alison
Medium Alison
Small Alison
Bruce Bechdel
Helen Bechdel
Christian Bechdel
John Bechdel
Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy & Bruce U/S
Joan
Female Swing
Youth Swing
Male Swing
**Member of Actors' Equity Association

Rae Henderson-Gray
Priya Richard
Lena Palke
Brent Roberts**
Sarah Alida LeClair
Zayden McHardy
Leo Jones
Kris Bona
Lisette Velandia
Katheryn "Kay" McNellen
Georgia Filipovitch
Kevin Phan

Director
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Musical Director
Choreographer
Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Props Designer
Intimacy Coordinator

Kym Pappas
Nathan Waits
Ali Flores
Korrie Yamaoka
Patrick Mayuyu
Yi-Chien Lee
Carmen Amon
Curtis Mueller
Ethan Eldred
McKenna Foote
Kandace Crystal

FUN HOME

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Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel
Directed by Kym Pappas
Previews: January 26 – Feb 2
Opening Night: February 3
February 3 to March 3

Recipient of the 2015 Tony Award for Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Original Score.

"A rare beauty, extraordinary and heart-gripping."

– Ben Brantley, The New York Times

New Village Arts 22nd Season 2023-2024

A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO

Written by Herbert Siguenza

Directed by Todd Salovey

Set and Costume Design by Giulio Perrone

Projection Design by Victoria Petrovich

Original Musical Score by Bruno Louchoaurn

Previews: August 4-11

Opening Night: August 12

August 12 to September 3

A WEEKEND WITH PABLO PICASSO played to sold out houses across the country.

DOUBT: A PARABLE

Written by John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner

Previews: September 22-29

Opening Night: September 30

September 30 to October 22

Recipient of The Tony Award for Best Play and Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama

1222 OCEANFRONT: A BLACK FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Written by Dea Hurston

Created by Dea Hurston, Milena (Sellers) Phillips, Frankie Alicea, Kevin "Blax" Burroughs

Original Music by Milena (Sellers) Phillips

Directed by Kandace Crystal

Previews November 30 & December 1

Opens December 2

December 2 - December 24

Named as one of the best shows of 2021 by The San Diego Union-Tribune

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Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel

Directed by Kym Pappas

Featuring Rae Henderson-Gray

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February 3 to March 3

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THE 39 STEPS

Adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan

From the movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Directed by Dr. AJ Knox

Previews: April 5-12

Opening Night: April 13

April 13 – May 12

Olivier Award for Best Comedy and Tony Award for Best Play

THE COLOR PURPLE

Based on the novel by Alice Walker

Book by Marsha Norman

Music and Lyrics by Brenda Russell, Allee Willis and Stephen Bray

Directed by Kandace Crystal

Previews: June 7-14

Opening Night: June 15

June 15 - July 21

A Pulitzer Prize. A National Book Award. Eleven Academy Award Nominations. Four Golden Globe Nominations. Three Tony Awards.

Performance Days and Times

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7:30 pm

Tickets and Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the 3 Show Package range from \$81 to \$158

Single tickets range from \$25 to \$55 for plays and \$25 to \$60 for musicals.

About New Village Arts

Celebrating 22 years of award-winning professional theatre and thriving education and outreach programs, New Village Arts (NVA) has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego.

NVA attracts more than 30,000 patrons each year to experience professional theatre, music and art events in the heart of Carlsbad Village. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. New this year, the White Family Next Stage in the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center presents a series of music and spoken word events throughout the year. NVA offers robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools and strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to all people, becoming a recognized leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. In turn NVA prioritizes

serving its community by presenting works that respect its diversity, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

New Village Arts is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization listed under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS

New Village Arts, Inc.

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