



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

New Village Arts Presents

THE 39 STEPS

Adapted by Patrick Barlow

From the Novel by John Buchan

From the Movie by Alfred Hitchcock

Directed by Dr. AJ Knox

April 13th – May 12th, 2024

Previews: April 5th – 12th, 2024

For immediate release: March 5th, 2024

Contact Olivia Pence, Manager of Marketing & Communications: olivia@newvillagearts.org

Carlsbad, CA—[New Village Arts \(NVA\)](#), North County's cultural hub, presents San Diego comedic royalty in THE 39 STEPS, a parody play adapted by Patrick Barlow, from the novel by John Buchan and the movie by Alfred Hitchcock. THE 39 STEPS will be directed by Dr. AJ Knox. This will be the first play presented in 2024 on the Ray Charles Stage in the Conrad Prebys Theatre at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center, after NVA's critically acclaimed production of the musical FUN HOME. THE 39 STEPS will run from APRIL 13TH – MAY 12TH, 2024. Previews will be held from APRIL 5TH – 12TH, with an Opening Night reception on April 13th.

THE 39 STEPS is a thrilling and comedic play that follows the misadventures of Richard Hannay. Set against the backdrop of pre-World War II Britain, the story begins when Hannay becomes inadvertently entangled in a web of espionage after a mysterious woman is murdered in his apartment. Falsely

accused of the crime, Hannay goes on the run to clear his name and unravel a complex conspiracy known as "The 39 Steps." The show unfolds as a fast-paced and hilarious spy caper, featuring a multitude of eccentric characters, quick costume changes, and clever theatrical techniques. As Hannay races against time, he encounters various obstacles and quirky individuals, leading to a series of comical and suspenseful situations. With its witty dialogue, clever staging, and homage to Hitchcock's cinematic style, THE 39 STEPS provides a unique and entertaining theatrical experience that keeps audiences on the edge of their seats while eliciting laughter throughout.

Guiding the theatrical spectacle is the esteemed Dr. AJ Knox, New Village Arts' resident comedic director. Dr. Knox's extensive contribution to the NVA legacy, from his current role as Board President to his directorial success with the 2023 summer production of SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, as well as his compelling on-stage portrayal of Father Flynn in DOUBT last year, positions him as a beacon of creativity. Knox shares his anticipation for this production, stating, *"I've worked with NVA for nearly a decade in all sorts of roles: Marketing Director, Actor, Playwright, Director, and now as the President of the Board. I love what NVA brings to our community and the San Diego arts community as a whole, and I know we're all in need of a good belly laugh these days. And THE 39 STEPS isn't just goofy fun (I mean, it definitely is that)--it's also got a lot of heart and joy. I can't wait for audiences to join us."*

Knox has brought together a plethora of comedic knowledge to this production. Dallas McLaughlin, award winning actor, writer and comedian, and Erica Marie Weisz, a Portuguese San Diego native, lead the cast as Hannay and his romantic counterparts, Annabella, Margaret, and Pamela. McLaughlin is no stranger to the NVA Stage; he previously appeared in Jez Butterworth's THE FERRYMAN, as well as THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS, AMERICAN HERO, and STAGE KISS. Weisz makes her New Village Arts debut in THE 39 STEPS, being known for various performances across town including at Cygnet Theatre, Performance Riverside, and more. Reden Magtira and Kenny Bordieri (another NVA Debut, who was recently seen locally as Vinnie in LUCKY STIFF during a co-production between Scripps Ranch Theatre and Oceanside Theatre Company) accompany McLaughlin & Weisz as the Clowns, which rounds out our star studded cast. Nick Siljander (SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, 2023) and Lilana Talwatte (NVA Debut) will understudy for the production.

Dallas McLaughlin, expresses his excitement about returning to NVA, stating, *"I've worked with NVA most recently on the record-breaking production of THE FERRYMAN, and it's stayed right in line with every show I've worked on at NVA - that it's an incredible experience full of talented people in one of the most lovely theatres on the West Coast. I consider NVA to be an artistic home for me and can't wait to come home for THE 39 STEPS! The cast for this show is next level, and there is no doubt you'll be hard pressed to find a better time at the theater this Spring!"*

We also asked Erica Marie Weisz to comment on her anticipation leading up to rehearsals: *“THE 39 STEPS is what happens when a classic Alfred Hitchcock murder-mystery-thriller, has a torrid love affair with perfectly timed comedy, and the product is something truly special. This show takes a special type of performer: one unafraid to play and commit to BIG choices, possess exceptional comedic-timing, and plays very well with others on stage. I am grateful I won rock-paper-scissors at callbacks and have this opportunity to work with this ridiculously capable cast. With our fearless and brilliant leader, Dr. AJ Knox at the helm, this production at New Village Arts is not to be missed!”*

These insightful comments from McLaughlin and Weisz offer a small glimpse into the camaraderie and talent that will undoubtedly make THE 39 STEPS a must-see production, promising laughter and entertainment from beginning to end.

Cast and Creative Team

Dallas McLaughlin	Hannay
Erica Marie Weisz	Annabella/Margaret/Pamela
Reden Magtira	Clown
Kenny Bordieri	Clown
Nick Siljander	Understudy – Hannay & Clown
Liliana Talwatte	Understudy – Annabella/Margaret/Pamela & Clown
Dr. AJ Knox	Director
Nathan Waits	Stage Manager
Joseff Paz	Assistant Stage Manager
Frank Seed	Scenic Coordinator
Grace Wong	Costume Designer
Russell Chow	Lighting Designer
Marcus Rico	Sound Engineer/Audio Operator
Kate Reynolds	Intimacy Coordinator
McKenna Foote	Props Designer
Greg Ertel	Master Carpenter

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April 13 – May 12

Olivier Award for Best Comedy and Tony Award for Best Play

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

FUN HOME

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Book and Lyrics by Lisa Kron

Based on the Graphic Novel by Alison Bechdel

Directed by Kym Pappas

Featuring Rae Henderson-Gray

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.

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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

Single tickets range from \$30 to \$60.

About New Village Arts

Celebrating 23 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. 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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