



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

New Village Arts brings Bold New Sci-Fi Thriller to the Ray Charles Stage

THE APIARY

Written by Kate Douglas

Directed by Kristianne Kurner

Performances: January 23rd through February 22nd, 2026

Previews: January 23rd-30th, 2026

Opening Night: January 31st, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: February 9th, 2026

For immediate release: December 19th, 2026

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

Carlsbad, CA – New Village Arts (NVA) is thrilled to bring an exciting new work to our stage in 2026 with the San Diego Regional Premiere of **THE APIARY**. Written by Kate Douglas, **THE APIARY** is a thrilling workplace dramedy set in a synthetic honeybee laboratory twenty-two years in the future. **THE APIARY** follows four individuals tasked with keeping the last surviving colonies alive, until a shocking discovery inside the hive turns their work, their loyalties, and their futures upside down. Performances on the Ray Charles Stage will run **JANUARY 23rd through FEBRUARY 22nd, 2026** at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center in Carlsbad Village. Previews are January 23rd through the 30th, with an Opening Night champagne reception and Handel's Ice Cream on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st**. Dea Hurston Industry Night will be held on **FEBRUARY 9th, 2026**.

Set in a not-so-distant future where bees have vanished and ecosystems teeter on the brink of collapse, **THE APIARY** follows scientists Gwen, Pilar, and Zora, who are tasked with safeguarding one of the last remaining beehives on Earth. Operating under strict protocols, their mission to protect the future of the planet slowly begins to unravel as buried histories, competing ideologies, and unsettling truths rise to the surface. Bold, strange, and fiercely imaginative, **THE APIARY** blends speculative science fiction with dark humor and raw humanity. The play interrogates the cost of survival, the ethics of preservation, and



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the dangerous seduction of control in the face of extinction. As the stakes heighten, the question becomes unavoidable: how far would you go to save the bees and what would you sacrifice to do it?

Director **KRISTIANNE KURNER** returns to the directing helm with a visionary approach to this genre-blending play, pairing epic theatricality with emotional precision. Known for her daring visual storytelling and actor-driven work, Kurner will guide this production with a clear focus on the human heart at the center of the story, grounding its futuristic elements in deeply personal truth. This will be Kurner's 40th production as director at NVA, with recent credits including John Patrick Shanley's *DOUBT: A PARABLE* and Jez Butterworth's *THE FERRYMAN*, which was named the Most Ambitious Production of 2023 by David Coddon, from the San Diego Theatre Critic Circle.

*"I've always been fascinated by plays that blend science and art. The passion that drives discovery and allows us to delve into the "undiscovered country" is shared in both professions. I was immediately drawn to *THE APIARY* because of the science, yes, but also because of the question of ethics. How far should we go to save something we love? Then we add this incredibly female and non-binary group of actors and it makes for an incredible experience in the theatre. I'm so proud that this is my 40th time directing shows for New Village Arts." says Kurner.*

The production is supported by an imaginative creative team, all returning artists, who will bring the futuristic world of *THE APIARY* to life through their designs. **CARTER VICKERS** will design the scenic and props elements of the show. **JESSICA MORENO CAYCHO** will return to NVA as costume designer, after their successful collaborations on *RENT & LA HAVANA MADRID*, both in 2025. **CHRIS RENDA** returns as lighting designer after his last production being *8-TRACK: THE SOUNDS OF THE '70s* in 2024. Former Dea Hurston Fellow **MIKI VALE** returns to NVA as sound designer, creating the very distinct auditory world of the bees. **MICHAEL WOGULIS** returns as the projections designer, after his incredible work in our 2025 production of *THE MOUNTAINTOP*, among many others. **NATHAN WAITS** and **KENDRA BAROS** will stage manage and assistant stage manage for the production, respectively. **MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE** will assist with costumes, while the scenic elements will be constructed by **GREG ERTEL**.

THE APIARY is brought vividly to life through an innovative partnership with **KINGSPAN LIGHT + AIR & SOLATUBE INTERNATIONAL**, whose expertise will be directly displayed in the play's striking onstage design. Together with New Village Arts, these partners are helping to construct a fully realized synthetic apiary onstage: an environment that mirrors the play's themes of innovation, preservation, and humanity's attempt to engineer solutions. By blending real-world sustainability practices with theatrical storytelling, these collaborations deepen the production's immersive sci-fi aesthetic.

The cast of *THE APIARY* features a dynamic ensemble of returning favorites and exciting new artists to the New Village Arts stage. NVA favorite **MILENA (SELLERS) PHILLIPS** returns to the stage as Zora, the new employee in the apiary, with her last performance being Jen Silverman's *THE ROOMMATE* in 2023,



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among many others. Other NVA alumni in the production include **MICHELLE CARAVIA** from LA HAVANA MADRID and **NIO RUSSELL**, who won a 2025 San Diego Critic Circle Award for their role as Celie in **THE COLOR PURPLE**. **ADELAIDA MARTINEZ** makes her NVA debut as the youngest employee. **MAYBELLE SHIMIZU & HAYDEN ST. CLAIR** join the cast as swings, also making their NVA debuts.

THE APIARY continues New Village Arts' commitment to producing bold, thought-provoking new work that speaks directly to the moment we're living in. Blending speculative sci-fi with deeply human storytelling, the production invites audiences to grapple with questions of responsibility, innovation, and survival, both for the planet and for one another. As the world onstage hums with tension and possibility, **THE APIARY** asks a haunting question that lingers long after the lights go down: when everything fragile is at risk, what are we willing to protect—and what are we willing to sacrifice?

The production is sponsored by K.A. Keller. Other corporate and individual sponsorships for **THE APIARY** are available. Please email Kristianne Kurner, Founder & Executive Artistic Director at kristianne@newvillagearts.org to inquire.

THE APIARY COMPANY

MICHELLE CARAVIA	as Gwen
ADELAIDA MARTINEZ	as Pilar
MILENA (SELLERS) PHILLIPS	as Zora
NIO RUSSELL	as Cece & Others
HAYDEN ST. CLAIR	Swing
MAYBELLE SHIMIZU	Swing

THE APIARY CREATIVES

KRISTIANNE KURNER	Director
CARTER VICKERS	Scenic & Props Designer
NATHAN WAITS	Stage Manager
JESS MORENO CAYCHO	Costume Designer
CHRIS RENDA	Lighting Designer
MIKI VALE	Sound Designer
MICHAEL WOGULIS	Projections Designer
KENDRA BAROS	Assistant Stage Manager
MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE	Costume Assistant
GREG ERTEL	Master Carpenter

The Apiary

Written by Kate Douglas

Directed by Founder and Executive Artistic Director, Kristianne Kurner

Previews: January 23-30, 2026



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Opening Night: January 31, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: February 9th, 2026

January 23-February 22, 2026

San Diego Regional Premiere

The Apiary is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com). World Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theater, New York, 2024. Carole Rothman, President and Artistic Director; Lisa Lawer Post, Interim Executive Director. *The Apiary* was developed with the Eugene O'Neill theater Center during the 2022 National Playwrights Conference. Tiffany Gavin, Executive Director; Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director.

NEW VILLAGE ARTS 24th SEASON 2025-2026

[title of show]: An Original Broadway Musical

Music & Lyrics by Jeff Bowen

Book by Hunter Bell

Directed by Desireé Clarke Miller

Music Direction by Erin Vanderhyde

Movement by Kevin "Blax" Borroughs

Previews: August 8-15, 2025

Opening Night: August 16, 2025

Dea Hurston Industry Night: September 15th, 2025

August 8-September 21, 2025

RENT

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

Directed by Kym Pappas

Music Direction by Elena Correia

Choreography by Tamara Rodriguez

Previews: October 31-November 7, 2025

Opening Night: November 8, 2025

Dea Hurston Industry Night: December 8, 2025

October 31-December 24, 2025

The Apiary

Written by Kate Douglas

Directed by Founder and Executive Artistic Director, Kristianne Kurner

Previews: January 23-30, 2026

Opening Night: January 31, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: February 16th, 2026



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January 23-February 22, 2026

San Diego Regional Premiere

Matt & Ben

Written by Mindy Kaling & Brenda Withers

Directed by Patrice Amon, Dea Hurston Professional Fellow

Previews: March 27-April 3, 2026

Opening Night: April 4, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: April 20, 2026

March 27-April 26, 2026

San Diego Regional Premiere

Hairspray

Book By Thomas Meehan and Mark O'Donnell

Music By Marc Shaiman

Lyrics By Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman

Based on the New Line Cinema film, written and directed by John Waters

Directed by Artistic Producer, Kali Boston

Choreography by Kevin "Blax" Burroughs

Previews: June 5-12, 2026

Opening Night: June 13, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: July 13, 2026

June 5-July 19, 2026

Performance Days and Times

Friday, Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 2:00pm

Thursday, Friday and Saturday Evenings at 7:30pm

Tickets and Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the season range from \$135 to \$342, with 3, 4, and 5-Show Subscriptions available.

Single tickets range from \$30 to \$70 for plays and \$35 to \$80 for musicals. Tickets are now available online or through our Box Office.

About New Village Arts

Celebrating 24 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



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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, comedy, and improv 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.

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