



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

New Village Arts opens its 25th Anniversary Season with an explosive, high-octane musical featuring over 20 iconic Queen hits!

# **WE WILL ROCK YOU**

Music & Lyrics by QUEEN

Story & Script by BEN ELTON

Directed by SHELDON GOMABON

Musical Directed by ERIN VANDERHYDE-GROSS

Choreography by ERICA KAHN

**August 7 - September 20, 2026**

Previews: August 7-14, 2026

Opening Night: August 15th, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: August 31st, 2026

*For immediate release: July 10th, 2026*

Contact Olivia Pence, Manager of Marketing & Communications: [olivia@newvillagearts.org](mailto:olivia@newvillagearts.org)

**Carlsbad, CA** – New Village Arts (NVA) launches its milestone 25th Anniversary Season with the electrifying global hit **WE WILL ROCK YOU**, a story by Ben Elton and featuring more than 20 iconic Queen songs. Globally recognized, this awe-inspiring rebel rousing musical has attracted over 15 million theatregoers in 17 countries and features Queen's biggest hits including "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Are the Champions," and of course, "We Will Rock You." **WE WILL ROCK YOU** will be directed by **SHELDON GOMABON**, musical directed by **ERIN VANDERHYDE-GROSS**, and choreographed by **ERICA KAHN**. Performances on the Ray Charles Stage will run **AUGUST 7 - SEPTEMBER 20, 2026** at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center in Carlsbad Village. Previews are August 7-14th, with an Opening Night champagne reception and Handel's Ice Cream on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th**. Dea Hurston Industry Night will be held on **MONDAY, AUGUST 31st**.

Set in a not-so-distant future where originality has been outlawed and algorithms control everything, a pair of unlikely rebels Galileo and Scaramouche set out on a quest to rediscover the lost power of rock 'n' roll. As they challenge the all-powerful Global Soft Corporation and its ruthless Killer Queen, they inspire



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a movement that celebrates individuality, self-expression, and the courage to stand apart. Equal parts rock concert, comedy, and epic adventure, **WE WILL ROCK YOU** invites audiences to turn up the volume and rediscover what it means to find their own voice. Since its world premiere in London in 2002, *We Will Rock You* has thrilled audiences in more than 30 countries, becoming one of the most successful jukebox musicals ever produced.

**WE WILL ROCK YOU** will be directed by [SHELDON GOMABON](#), making his New Village Arts directorial debut. He will collaborate with **ERIN VANDERHYDE-GROSS** and **ERICA KAHN** as musical director and choreographer, respectively. The former [Teatro San Diego](#) Associate Artistic Director, Gomabon brings fresh eyes to the production with an emphasis on authentic storytelling and collaboration. Erin returns as music director after NVA's wildly successful, sold out production of HAIRSPRAY currently running. Erica will also make her New Village Arts debut with the company.

*"I am thrilled to bring WE WILL ROCK YOU to the Ray Charles stage at NVA. Featuring an electrifying score with more than 20 of Queen's greatest hits, our cast brings to life a heartfelt story of a futuristic and bohemian community united in its fight to save the spirit of rock and roll from an evil dictator determined to erase individuality and creativity through the power of algorithms.*

*I hope audiences leave the theatre with grins from ear to ear, a sense of joyful nostalgia, and renewed hope for the future. Above all, I hope they are reminded of the power of music to inspire connection, celebrate authenticity, and bring people together, especially in times of uprising." - says Sheldon Gomabon, Director.*

The creative team behind **WE WILL ROCK YOU** includes many returning and debut artists to the Ray Charles Stage. [JESUS HURTADO](#) (Scenic & Projections Designer, and [Dea Hurston Fellow](#)) returns after his outstanding work on recent productions including HAIRSPRAY and MATT & BEN, both in 2026. **STEPHANIE MA'ALONA** (Lighting Designer) returns to NVA following her gorgeous lighting on MATT & BEN (2026), while **MAHLICK CEESAY** (Sound Designer), **JAEONNIE DAVIS-CRAWFORD** (Props Designer), and **MARICELA ALANIZ** (Costume Designer) also return after their recent involvement in HAIRSPRAY. **SARAH JANE SALONGA** joins the company as Intimacy Director, her work showcased in recent productions including LA HAVANA MADRID (2025). **HOLDEN FOX** will stage manage the production with **ASTRID PETT** assisting, both making their NVA debuts. **MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE** will assist ALANIZ with costumes, and **JACOB ALABA ALVAREZ** will provide rehearsal accompaniment, assisting VANDERHYDE-GROSS with music. Completing the scenic construction is master carpenter **CHRIS RENDA** and scenic painter **ZACHARY ELLIOT**. NVA's Technical Manager **MARCUS RICO** will be sound engineer.

Leading the dynamic ensemble of actors are New Village Arts newcomer **COOPER ORIO** as the dreamer-turned-hero Galileo and **SARAH LEDESMA** as the fearless Scaramouche. Returning to New Village Arts is **JUWAN STANFORD** as the lovable Bohemian Buddy, following his appearance in *RENT*



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(2025), while **AUDREY WARD** returns as the ruthless Khashoggi after appearing in *Around the World in 80 Days* (2019). Ward is also the recipient of a 2023 Craig Noel Award for her acclaimed performance as Lina Lamont in *Singin' in the Rain*. Making their NVA debuts are **SAMY BERMAN** as the glamorous yet dangerous Killer Queen, **GABY RITTER** as the fiercely loyal Bohemian Oz, **OSVALDO MENDOZA** as Brit, another Bohemian they meet along the way. **VANESSA FLORES** and **CARLY O'REAR** will also understudy multiple roles throughout the company.

Season 25 is graciously sponsored by Jazzercise, 5 Alarm Security, and 5 North Media. Corporate and individual sponsorships for **SEASON 25** are available. Please email Kristianne Kurner, Founder & Executive Artistic Director at [kristianne@newvillagearts.org](mailto:kristianne@newvillagearts.org) to inquire.

## ***WE WILL ROCK YOU CREATIVES***

SHELDON GOMABON	Director
ERIN VANDERHYDE-GROSS	Music Director
ERICA KAHN	Choreographer
HOLDEN FOX	Stage Manager
JESUS HURTADO	Scenic & Projections Designer
JAEONNIE DAVIS-CRAWFORD	Props Designer
MARICELA ALANIZ	Costume Designer
STEPHANIE MA'ALONA	Lighting Designer
MAHLICK CEESAY	Sound Designer
SARAH JANE SALONGA	Intimacy Director
ASTRID PETT	Assistant Stage Manager
MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE	Costume Assistant
ALEXIS ORDONEZ	Second Costume Assistant
JACOB ALABA ALVAREZ	Rehearsal Accompanist
ZACHARY ELLIOT	Scenic Painter
MARCUS RICO	Sound Engineer
CHRIS RENDA	Master Carpenter

## ***WE WILL ROCK YOU CAST***

SAMY BERMAN	Killer Queen & Scaramouche U/S
SARAH LEDESMA	Scaramouche
OSVALDO MENDOZA	Brit & Galileo U/S
COOPER ORIO	Galileo
GABY RITTER	Oz
JUWAN STANFORD	Buddy
AUDREY WARD	Khashoggi
VANESSA FLORES	U/S Killer Queen & Oz
CARLY O'REAR	U/S Brit/Khashoggi/Buddy



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## ***We Will Rock You***

Music and Lyrics by Queen  
Story and Script by Ben Elton  
Directed by Sheldon Gamabon  
Musical Directed by Erin Vanderhyde-Gross  
Choreography by Erica Kahn  
Previews: August 7 - 14, 2026  
Opening Night: August 15, 2026  
Dea Hurston Industry Night: August 31, 2026  
August 7 – September 20, 2026

We Will Rock You is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. [www.theatricalrights.com](http://www.theatricalrights.com)

## **NEW VILLAGE ARTS 25th SEASON 2026-2027**

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## ***As You Like It***

A Musical Adaptation of William Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT  
Adapted by Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery  
Music and Lyrics by Shaina Taub  
Directed by Kristianne Kurner, Founder & Executive Artistic Director  
Previews: October 16-23, 2026  
Opening Night: October 24, 2026  
Dea Hurston Industry Night: November 9, 2026  
October 16 - November 29, 2026

AS YOU LIKE IT is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## ***Cabaret***



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Book by Joe Masteroff

Based on the play by John Van Druten and stories by Christopher Isherwood

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Previews: January 29 - February 5, 2027

Opening Night: February 6, 2027

Dea Hurston Industry Night: February 22, 2027

January 29 - March 14, 2027

CABARET is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## ***Furlough's Paradise***

Book by a.k. payne

Directed by Kali Boston, Artistic Producer

Previews: April 9-16, 2027

Opening Night: April 17, 2027

Dea Hurston Industry Night: May 3, 2027

April 9 - May 9, 2027

FURLOUGH'S PARADISE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## ***In the Heights***

Music & Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes

Conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Directed by Maria Patrice Amon

Previews: June 4-11, 2027

Opening Night: June 12, 2027

Dea Hurston Industry Night: June 28, 2027

June 4 - July 18, 2027

IN THE HEIGHTS is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## **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 \$157 to \$342, with 4- and 5-Show Subscriptions available.

Single tickets will range from \$40 to \$75 for plays and \$45 to \$85 for musicals. Single tickets for *We Will Rock You* are now on sale.

## **About New Village Arts**

Celebrating 25 years of award-winning professional theatre and thriving education and outreach



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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, 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.

New Village Arts, Inc.

2787 State Street, Carlsbad, CA 92008

760-433-3245

[www.newvillagearts.org](http://www.newvillagearts.org)

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