



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

25 years later, New Village Arts takes one last trip to Arden. Founder and Executive Artistic Director Kristianne Kurner directs her final production at NVA with Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery's joyous musical adaptation of...

AS YOU LIKE IT

A Musical Adaptation of William Shakespeare's AS YOU LIKE IT

Adapted by Shaina Taub & Laurie Woolery

Music & Lyrics by Shaina Taub

Directed by Kristianne Kurner, Founder & Executive Artistic Director

Music Direction by Angela Parrish

Choreography by Nikki Antoine

October 16 - November 29, 2026

Previews: October 16-23, 2026

Opening Night: October 24th, 2026

Dea Hurston Industry Night: November 9th, 2026

For immediate release: September 21, 2026

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

Carlsbad, CA – New Village Arts (NVA) continues its milestone 25th Anniversary Season with **AS YOU LIKE IT**, a joyful musical adaptation of William Shakespeare's beloved romantic comedy, adapted by **SHAINA TAUB** and **LAURIE WOOLERY**. Bursting with original music, romance, humor and Shakespeare's timeless celebration of love and transformation, **AS YOU LIKE IT** follows a group of exiles, lovers and misfits who escape the confines of court and discover freedom, community and themselves in the Forest of Arden. **AS YOU LIKE IT** will be directed and scenic designed by NVA Founder and Executive Artistic Director **KRISTIANNE KURNER**, with music direction by **ANGELA PARRISH** and choreography by **NIKKI ANTOINE**. Performances on the Ray Charles Stage will run **OCTOBER 16 – NOVEMBER 29, 2026** at the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center in Carlsbad Village. Previews are **OCTOBER 16–23**, with an Opening Night champagne reception and Handel's Ice Cream on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**. Dea Hurston Industry Night will be held on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9**.



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In **AS YOU LIKE IT**, Rosalind is banished from the court of her uncle, Duke Frederick, and escapes to the Forest of Arden with her cousin Celia. Disguised and determined to make a new life, Rosalind soon encounters Orlando, the young man who captured her heart before her exile, only he doesn't recognize her. What follows is a playful tangle of mistaken identities, unexpected romances and newfound friendships as the inhabitants of Arden search for love and a place to belong.

Featuring music and lyrics by celebrated songwriter and Tony Award winner **SHAINA TAUB**, this musical adaptation transforms Shakespeare's comedy into a vibrant celebration of community and chosen family. NVA's production reimagines the Court through the glitz and image-conscious world of Hollywood, where appearances and status are everything, before transporting audiences to a Joshua Tree-inspired Forest of Arden: an expansive, free-spirited refuge where music flourishes, expectations fall away and the characters are given the freedom to discover who they truly are.

AS YOU LIKE IT marks a deeply meaningful milestone for New Village Arts as **KRISTIANNE KURNER**, NVA's Founder and Executive Artistic Director, takes the director's chair for the final time before her retirement. Kurner also serves as Scenic Designer for the production, bringing together a creative team that includes both longtime NVA collaborators and artists returning to the company in new capacities. **NIKKI ANTOINE**, recently seen on the Ray Charles Stage in NVA's acclaimed production of **HAIRSPRAY**, returns behind the scenes as Choreographer, alongside Music Director **ANGELA PARRISH**, making her NVA debut! **CASSIE LANGAN** returns as Props Designer for the first time since the company's 2019 production of **AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**, while **AMBER ST JAMES** continues a recurring collaboration with NVA as Makeup & Wig Designer, following her work on productions including **HAIRSPRAY** and **RENT**. The creative team also includes **ANABEL OLGUIN-NATALE** (Costume Designer), **CURTIS MUELLER** (Lighting Designer), **MALICK CEESAY** (Sound Designer), **NOLAN LEMAY** (Fight Choreographer & Band Leader), **GWYN TORIO** (Assistant Director), **SARAH JANE SALONGA** (Intimacy Director), **ZACHARY ELLIOT** (Scenic Painter), **MARCUS RICO** (Sound Engineer) and **CHRIS RENDA** (Master Carpenter).

"I'm thrilled to return to the Forest of Arden for my final show as a director with New Village Arts. AS YOU LIKE IT is a celebration of a life in the arts and how we build community through love, music, and understanding. I couldn't imagine a better team to work with for this journey and can't wait to share this adaptation of Shakespeare's most accessible work with our Village." says director Kristianne Kurner, Founder & Executive Artistic Director.

For her final production, **KURNER** has assembled what she describes as a "dream cast," bringing together beloved returning artists, familiar NVA faces and performers making new connections with the company. Leading the cast as Rosalind is **JOHNISA BREAUULT**, returning to New Village Arts for the first time since appearing in **LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S NEW YORK**, NVA's outdoor production presented at The Flower Fields during the COVID-19 pandemic. Three NVA veterans return for this show: **KRIS BONA**, **MAX**



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MACKE & WALTER MURRAY. Between the three actors they have been in nearly 30 productions at NVA and we are honored to have them return for Kurner's final production as director.

The production also includes **MARLON MAGTIBAY** as Orlando , **NICOLE WARKENTIEN** as Celia, **MARY ROSE VADEBONCOEUR** as Jaques, **MAX MACKE** as Duke Frederick, **ENNIS C JACKSON** as Duke Senior, **ERICA MARIE WEISZ returns** as Phoebe & Hisperia (THE THANKSGIVING PLAY and THE 39 STEPS), **GABY RITTER** as Silvia (WE WILL ROCK YOU), **JACOB LOPEZ** as Oliver, **PHOENIX VELONA** as Andy & Frankie Flow, **JUWAN STANFORD** as William/Caveman (RENT & WE WILL ROCK YOU), **WALTER MURRAY** as Adam/Referee/Papa Corin, **ANALIA ROMERO** as Agent/Mama Corin/Martext, **LENA PALKE** as Young Jacques, Ensemble & Ardenite (returning after acclaimed performances in MIRACLE on 34th STREET, FUN HOME, & THE FERRYMAN.) Palke received the 2024 Craig Noel Outstanding Youth Performance Award for her performances above. Rounding out the cast is **NOLAN LEMAY** as Bronco. LEMAY will also act as the Dance & Fight Captain. The company also includes understudies **JAYMES MACABALE** and **SARAH LEDESMA**.

True to Shaina Taub and Laurie Woolery's musical vision, the performers themselves help create the sound of Arden. Members of the company will play piano, guitar, ukulele, cello, cajón, drums and bass live onstage, allowing the Forest of Arden to become not simply a setting, but a musical community built before the audience's eyes.

That sense of community extends to the inclusion of NVA's **Mainstage Players: REID MORIARTY, EMILY SANDOVAL, ETHAN MARR, MAX LECANU-FAYET, STEPHANIE MONIS** and **RACHEL FORD**, who appear in the production as Royal Minions. The Mainstage Players program has been part of New Village Arts for more than a decade, beginning with *Monday Night Live!*, a sketch comedy class for neurodiverse performers. The success of that work ultimately led NVA to expand its professional theatrical training opportunities for artists with developmental disabilities and neurodiversity. The presence of artists from so many corners of New Village Arts' history feels especially fitting.

For Kurner's final production, the return to **AS YOU LIKE IT** brings New Village Arts' history full circle. At its heart, the story is about leaving behind the world you know, venturing into the unknown, finding your people and discovering who you might become along the way. Twenty-five years after NVA first ventured into the Forest of Arden, the company returns once more, this time to celebrate where it has been, the community it has built and the beginning of a new chapter.

AS YOU LIKE IT is graciously sponsored by Carlsbad Cultural Arts Office, Knot Free Productions, Anthony Phifer-Collins, Penguin Random House, and an Anonymous donation.

New Village Arts' Season 25 is 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 to inquire.



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AS YOU LIKE IT CREATIVES

KRISTIANNE KURNER	Director & Scenic Designer
ANGELA PARRISH	Musical Director
NIKKI ANTOINE	Choreographer
ROSALÉE BARRIENTOS	Stage Manager
JESUS HURTADO	Scenic Construction
CASSIE LANGAN	Props Designer
ANABEL OLGUIN-NATALE	Costume Designer
AMBER ST. JAMES	Makeup & Wig Designer
CURTIS MUELLER	Lighting Designer
MALICK CEESAY	Sound Designer
NOLAN LEMAY	Fight Choreographer & Band Leader
SARAH JANE SALONGA	Intimacy Director
MADISON NOVITSKI*	Assistant Stage Manager
ASTRID PETT	Stage Manager Swing
GWYN TORIO	Assistant Director
ALEXIS ORDONEZ	Costume Assistant
MARYKATE REEVES-HOCHE	Costume Assistant
MITRA	Assistant Sound Designer
ZACHARY ELLIOTT	Scenic Painter
MARCUS RICO	Sound Engineer
CHRIS RENDA	Master Carpenter

AS YOU LIKE IT CAST

JOHNISA BREAUT	Rosalind
MARLON MAGTIBAY	Orlando
NICOLE WARKENTIEN	Celia
KRIS BONA	Touchstone
MARY ROSE VADEBONCOEUR	Jacques
MAX MACKE	Duke Frederick
ANALIA ROMERO	Agent, Mama Corin, Martext
LENA PALKE	Young Jacques, Ensemble, Ardenite
JUWAN STANFORD	William, Caveman, U/S Duke Senior
WALTER MURRAY	Adam, Referee, Papa Corin
ERICA MARIE WEISZ	Phoebe, Hisperia, Ensemble
JACOB LOPEZ	Oliver, Ardenite, U/S Orlando
PHOENIX VELONA	Andy, Frankie Flow, U/S Touchstone
GABY RITTER	Silvia, Ensemble, U/S Rosalind
ENNIS C JACKSON	Duke Senior, Ensemble



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NOLAN LEMAY+	Bronco, U/S Jacques
REID MORIARTY	Royal Minion**
EMILY SANDOVAL	Royal Minion**
ETHAN MARR	Royal Minion**
MAX LECANU-FAYET	Royal Minion**
STEPHANIE MONIS	Royal Minion**
RACHEL FORD	Royal Minion**
JAYMES MACABALE	Understudy
SARAH LEDESMA	Understudy

AS YOU LIKE IT BAND

NOLAN LEMAY+	Band Leader, Bass & Guitar
NICOLE WARKENTIEN	Piano
KRIS BONA	Ukulele
MARY ROSE VADEBONCOEUR	Guitar
ANALIA ROMERO	Guitar
LENA PALKE	Cello & Piano
JUWAN STANFORD	Cajon
JACOB LOPEZ	Drums
GABY RITTER	Guitar

*Phifer-Collins Stage Management Fellow

**Mainstage Players

+Fight & Dance Captain

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October 16 - November 29, 2026

AS YOU LIKE IT is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com



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NEW VILLAGE ARTS 25th SEASON 2026-2027

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

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Cabaret

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

Directed by Sarah Jane Salonga

Music Directed by Erin Vanderhyde Gross

Choreographed by Ala Tiatia-Gurad

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



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Furlough's Paradise

Book by a.k. payne

Directed by Kali Boston, Artistic Producer

Choreographed by Kara Mack

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

In the Heights

Music & Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Book by Quiara Alegria Hudes

Conceived by Lin-Manuel Miranda

Directed by Maria Patrice Amon

Choreographed by Tamara Rodriguez

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

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 *As You Like It* are now on sale.

About New Village Arts

Celebrating 25 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, comedy, and improv events throughout the year. NVA offers robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools and strongly believes that



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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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