



Tuesday, October 7, 2008

# **NAMT Announces Complete Casts and Lineup for Songwriter Showcase; Hosted by de Jesus**

By BWW News Desk



The National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) and Executive Director Kathy Evans announced the directors and casts for the eight musicals being presented at its 20th Annual Festival of New Musicals at New World Stages (340 West 50th St) on Monday, October 20 and Tuesday, October 21, 2008. Also, announced were the line-up for this year's Songwriter Showcase happening during the Festival. [www.namt.org](http://www.namt.org)

## **SONGWRITER SHOWCASE**

Directed by John Simpkins (SPF's *The Black Suits*)  
Co-Hosted by Robin de Jesus (Tony Nominee- *In The Heights*)—  
[second co-host will be announced shortly]

Shows featured:

**A SUPERHERO, Music & Lyrics by Jonathan Waller, Book by Marty Johnson**

ADAM LIVES, by Rob Baumgartner

HAVING IT ALMOST, Music by John Kavanaugh, Book by David

Goldsmith & Wendy Perelman, Lyrics by David Goldsmith

HOMEMADE FUSION, by Michael Kooman & Chris Dimond

HOSTAGE SONG- Music & Lyrics by Kyle Jarrow, Stories & Book by Clay McLeod Chapman

PEOPLE ARE WRONG- by Julia Greenberg and Robin Goldwasser

UNLOCK'D-Music by Derek Gregor, Book & Lyrics by Sam Carner

VICTOR WOO - Music & Lyrics by Kevin So, Book by Kevin Merritt

Performers will include: Chris Anderson, David Driver, Raymond J. Lee (*Mamma Mia!*), Liz McCartney (*Mamma Mia!*), Sean McCourt (*Mary Poppins*), Lindsay Mendez (*Grease*), Patina Miller (*Hair*), Connie Petruk, Lauren Pritchard (*Spring Awakening*), Tricia Scott, Christopher Totten

## **A TOAST FOR 20! BENEFIT CONCERT**

To commemorate their 20th Annual Festival of New Musicals, NAMT will celebrate with a benefit concert

open to the public entitled, A Toast to 20! on Sunday, October 19th. Tickets are now available to the public for \$85 each and will feature Broadway luminaries performing songs from past Festival of New Musicals shows. The concert will take place at Comix, 353 West 14th Street (at 9th Avenue) from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Hosted by Tony Award-winners Bob Martin and Beth Leavel (The Drowsy Chaperone, Festival 2004), A Toast to 20! will also feature performances by: Will Chase (High Fidelity), Gavin Creel (Tony Nominee - Thoroughly Modern Millie), Stephanie D'Abruzzo (Tony Nominee - Avenue Q), Ryan Driscoll (Summer of '42), Malcolm Gets (Tony Nominee - Amour), LaChanze (Tony Winner - The Color Purple), Lauren Kennedy (Sunset Boulevard), Lauren Pritchard (Spring Awakening), Robb Sapp (Wicked), Bobby Steggert (110 in the Shade) and more! Music Direction by Lynne Shankel (Cry-bayb, Company, Altar Boyz).

Ticket prices: Single Ticket are \$85 each

VIP Table\*\* for 4 people: \$1,000 donation, Single VIP Ticket\*\*: \$300 donation, Single Donation Ticket: \$250 donation, NAMT Member Ticket: \$150 donation. VIP and Donation Tickets include the concert, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres; and VIP ticket holders receive reserved seating and complimentary wine during the concert.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting [www.namt.org](http://www.namt.org).

For the New Musicals Festival, the directors and casts confirmed to date are:

### **BARNSTORMER**

Book & Lyrics by Cheryl Davis

Music by Douglas Cohen

Director: Jerry Dixon (original casts of Tick Tick BOOM!, Once on this Island)

Music Director: JoNathan Smith (Swing!)

Cast: Kenita Miller- Xanadu

Norm Lewis- The Little Mermaid

Tina Fabrique- Ragtime

Stu James- The Color Purple

C.E. Smith- The Full Monty

Glenn Turner- Five Guys Named Moe

Rema Webb- Lion King

### **BEATSVILLE**

Music & Lyrics by Wendy Wilf

Book by Glenn Slater

Director: Robert Longbottom- Side Show, Flower Drum Song –Tony Nom. for Choreography

Cast: Todd Buonopane- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Alli Mauzey- Cry Baby

Hilary Gardner

Tommar Wilson- Hairspray, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Music Man

Cameron Barnett

Beth Malone- Ring of Fire

Richard Roland- Thoroughly Modern Millie, Follies, The Scarlett Pimpernel

Stephen DeRosa- Into the Woods, Hairspray

Marla Mindelle

Joe Kenosian

Dan Sherman

## **THE CUBAN AND THE REDHEAD**

By Robert Bartley and Danny Whitman

Director: Robert Bartley

Music Director: Mark Janas

Cast: Jenn Colella (Lucy)- High Fidelity  
Tony Yazbeck (Desi)- Gypsy  
Eliseo Roman- In the Heights  
Miguel Cervantes  
Eileen Galindo  
Michelle Blakely- Annie Get Your Gun  
Kirsten Wyatt- Grease, Urinetown, High Fidelity  
Jessica Carter  
Hattie Davis  
Morgan James  
Jay Russell- The Play What I Wrote  
Philip D'Amore  
Tim Salamandyk  
Roland Rusinek- The Phantom of the Opera

## **THE LEGEND OF STAGECOACH MARY**

By Thomas Mizer and Curtis Moore

Director: Christopher Gatelli- Altar Boyz, South Pacific- Tony Nomination for Choreography  
Music Director: Brad Haak – Mary Poppins & Lestat

CAST: Danielle Lee Greaves (Mary)- Rent, Hairspray  
Madeleine Doherty- The Producers, Les Miserables  
Sarah Saltzberg- 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Don't Quit Your Night Job  
J. Austin Eyer- The Secret Garden, Curtains  
Josh Henry- In The Heights  
Steve Kazee- 110 in the Shade, SPAMalot  
Jose Llana- Rent, 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Flower Drum Song  
Jason Patrick Sands- A Chorus Line, Legally Blonde  
Nick Wyman - A Tale of Two Cities

## **ORDINARY DAYS**

By Adam Gwon  
Director: Matt Toronto  
Music Director: Rick Bertone

CAST: Jared Gertner- The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee  
Adam Jacobs- Les Miserables  
Kate Shindle- Legally Blonde, Cabaret  
Kate Wetherhead- Legally Blonde, Sarah Plain and Tall

## **PAMELA'S FIRST MUSICAL**

Book by Wendy Wasserstein  
Music by Cy Coleman  
Lyrics by David Zippel  
Director: David Zippel  
Music Director: Kevin Stites- A Tale of Two Cities, Nine

CAST: Lila Coogan (Pamela) -Mary Poppins  
Steven Bogardus- Irving Berlin's White Christmas, Falsettos  
Karen Ziemba- Curtains, Contact, Chicago, Never Gonna Dance  
Lewis Stadlen- The Producers, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum  
Daniel Reichard- Jersey Boys  
Dan Bogart- Les Miserables  
Dan Petrotta- A Tale of Two Cities  
Devin Richards- A Tale of Two Cities, Suessical, The Life  
Adam Jacobs- Les Miserables  
Deborah Lew- Beauty and the Beast  
Allison Blackwell  
Carrie A. Johnson  
Allison Walla

## **SEE ROCK CITY**

Book & Lyrics by Adam Mathias  
Music by Brad Alexander  
Director: Kevin Del Aguila (Book for Altar Boyz)  
Music Director: Vadim Feichner (The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee)

CAST: Jill Abromovitz- Junie B. Jones, Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me  
John Jellison- All Shook Up, Anything Goes  
Cassie Wooley  
David Rossmer- Titanic, Don't Quit Your Night Job  
Benjamin Schrader  
Wesley Taylor

## **THE YELLOW WOOD**

Book by Michelle Elliot  
Music by Danny Larsen  
Lyrics by Elliot and Larsen  
Director: Brian Yorkey (Best Actor Tony Award for M. Butterfly)

CAST: Danny Larsen  
Melinda Bass  
Randy Blair- The Adding Machine  
Bob De Dea  
MaryAnn Hu- South Pacific  
Diana Huey  
Morgan Weed- Saved  
Amy Linden

Admission to the FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS by invitation for industry only. Invited industry professionals may register on [www.namt.org](http://www.namt.org). A stand by line is open to the general public. Historically all stand by patrons have been able to see the Festival shows.

Members of the media that wish to attend should contact NAMT press representative Keith Hurd at keithhurdinc@aol.com to obtain festival credentials or 212 589-5433.

Since 1989, NAMT's FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS has introduced theatre producers to more than 200 musicals and 300 writers. More than three-fourths of these shows have had further development, tours and licensing agreements, leading to thousands of subsequent productions. Past festival highlights have included the multiple Tony Award winning *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Children of Eden*, *Honk!*, *Songs for a New World*, *Summer of '42* and *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*.

The 2008 Festival of New Musicals is produced by NAMT New Works Director, Branden Huldeen. The eight selected shows, culled from a pool of more than 125 applicants, were selected by the NAMT Festival Committee, comprised of artistic directors and producers from NAMT member organizations.

NAMT is very grateful to the following foundations and government agencies for supporting the mission to nurture the production of new musicals and classics:

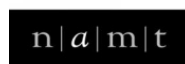
The ASCAP Foundation, Disney Theatrical Productions, The Dramatists Guild Fund, Jamie DeRoy & friends, Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation, The Mackintosh Foundation, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Foundation, Stacey Mindich, The Shen Family Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation.

The Festival of New Musicals is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art, and by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

#### NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE (NAMT)

Founded in 1985 and based in New York City, The National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT), is a national service organization dedicated exclusively to musical theatre. NAMT has presented its annual FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS since 1989. The Festival brings together leading theatre producers and writers, with the goal of furthering the development and production of new musicals. NAMT membership includes not-for-profit and commercial theatres, developmental organizations, universities, and independent producers. Located throughout 33 states and 6 countries, the 144 member organizations share a commitment to nurture the creation, production, and recognition of new musicals and classics. Last season, NAMT members cumulatively staged over 23,000 performances attended by over 17 million people and reached revenues of over \$510 million. For more information, visit [www.namt.org](http://www.namt.org).

Photo by Walter McBride/Retna Ltd.



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