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## **NAMT Festival to Showcase *Lizzie Borden, The Bowery Boys* and *Play It Cool***

By Adam Hetrick

Big Red Sun, Lizzie Borden, Play It Cool and Red Clay are among the eight musicals that will be presented during the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's annual festival of musicals in Manhattan this October. The 22nd annual festival, presented for industry members, will run Oct. 21-22. NAMT offers theatre writers the chance to have their works showcased before an audience of theatre professionals from New York and around the country. All production costs are underwritten by NAMT. Veteran Broadway performers annually gather to appear in the festival. While the event is produced for industry members, day-of tickets are made available to the general public. Founded in 1985 and based in New York City, The National Alliance for Musical Theatre is a national service organization dedicated exclusively to musical theatre. Kathy Evans is the executive director for the organization. The 2010 NAMT Festival of New Musical Selections follow:

### ***Big Red Sun***

**Book and lyrics by John Jiler**

**Music by Georgia Stitt**

"A teenage boy unearths a dark family secret as he searches for his long-lost father through the bewildering landscape of post-WWII America... where innocence has vanished, and the simple melodies of Kern and Berlin have been replaced by the dizzying energy of jazz and the birth of rock-and-roll."

### ***The Bowery Boys***

**Book and lyrics by David H. Bell**

**Music by Jeremy Cohen**

**Co-created by Aaron Thielen**

"A musical that follows the journey of Dick, a streetwise kid, and his gang of bootblacks trying to 'make it through the day.' The backdrop of the show is Five Points New York in 1876, where Dick rescues a young English girl, who through a series of unfortunate circumstances, is abandoned by her devious step-father and his compatriots. The show follows Dick and the boys trying to protect Mary and reunite her with the only family she has left, her Grandfather. Loosely based on the writings of American writer Horatio Alger, this musical deals with the great distance between the American mythology and the much darker and more ominous truth about life in the tenements of the time."

### ***The Giver***

**Book and lyrics by Nathan Christensen**

**Music by Scott Murphy**

**Based on the book by Lois Lowry**

"12-year-old Jonas lives in a perfect world, without pain, conflict or loneliness. But after being assigned to carry the memories of life before 'Sameness,' an ability learned from a mysterious man called the Giver, Jonas must choose between his perfect community and a world that contains both beauty and pain."

***Heartbreakers***

**Book by Robert Cary and Benjamin Feldman**

**Music by David Gursky**

**Lyrics by Robert Cary**

**Based on the MGM motion picture written by Robert Dunn, Paul Guay and Stephen Mazur**

"Sexy female con artist Max Connor marries eligible bachelors, refuses them sex, and then discovers them in bed with a younger woman – leading to hefty annulment settlements. But the 'other woman' is actually Max's daughter Page, who's in on the con. Then Page breaks the cardinal rule: she falls in love."

***Lizzie Borden***

**Music by Steven Cheslik-DeMeyer and Alan Stevens Hewitt**

**Lyrics by Cheslik-DeMeyer and Tim Maner**

**Book and additional music by Maner**

"A rock roadshow retelling of the bloody legend of America's first and favorite axe-wielding double-murderess and Victorian hometown girl, Lizzie Borden. Featuring four fierce rocker girls and a live band, this driving musical reveals why Lizzie took up that axe and how she became an American folk hero."

***Play It Cool***

**Conceived by Larry Dean Harris**

**Book by Martin Casella and Larry Dean Harris**

**Lyrics by Mark Winkler**

**Music by Phillip Swann**

**Additional Music by Jim Andron, Michael Cruz, Marilyn Harris, Emilio Palame, Joe Pasquale and Larry Steelman**

"Everyone's got a secret at Mary's Hideaway, an underground nightclub in sexy, sultry, repressive 1953 Hollywood. Inspired by film noir and driven by a sizzling jazz score, this story of five very ambitious people is about finding the courage to be who you are. You just need to...Play It Cool."

***Red Clay***

**Music by Scott Ethier**

**Book and lyrics by Jeff Hughes**

"Set in the six months leading up to Rosa Parks' historic ride on a Montgomery bus, Red Clay uses a new jazz and gospel-infused score to tell the story of the ordinary Americans who changed this nation in extraordinary ways."

***The Trouble With Doug***

**Book and music by Will Aronson**

**Book and lyrics by Daniel Maté**

"The Trouble With Doug is a contemporary comedic reimaging of Kafka's Metamorphosis in which a happy, healthy young man transforms inexplicably into a giant talking slug. Thrust together awkwardly under the same roof, Doug, his family, and his fiancée all struggle to understand and respond to this strangest of crises."

Musicals previously presented in NAMT's Festival of New Musicals include *Vanities*, *Ordinary Days*, *Dangerous Beauty*, *Emma*, *The Gypsy King*, *The Story of My Life*, *Tinyard Hill*, *The Drowsy*

*Chaperone, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Children of Eden, I Love You Because, Songs for A New World, Striking 12, Summer of '42, Ace, Children of Eden, Harold and Maude, Honk! and Meet John Doe.*

For more information visit NAMT.



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