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NAMT's 2008 Festival Lineup to Include *Pamela's First Musical*

By Broadway.com Staff



Wendy Wasserstein

The National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) has announced the eight official selections for its 20th Annual Festival of New Musicals, to be held in New York City on October 20 and 21. The lineup will include *Pamela's First Musical*, the last work by Wendy Wasserstein and Cy Coleman, in collaboration David Zippel.

Theater producers from across the world come together for this industry-only event, which was begun with the goal of furthering the development and production of new musicals. Since 1989, the Festival has presented over 200 shows (including *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*) and 80 percent have found subsequent developmental and full productions, tours and licensing agreements.

The 2008 Festival of New Musicals selections are:

Barnstormer

Book and lyrics by Cheryl L. Davis; music by Douglas J. Cohen

Before Amelia Earhart, there was Bessie Coleman, the first black aviatrix who rose from the cotton fields of Texas and the barbershops of Chicago to conquer the skies of France. Her brief but dynamic life inspired the disenfranchised to pursue their dreams, including her own nephew, who became a Tuskegee Airman.

Beatsville

Music and lyrics by Wendy Leigh Wilf; book by Glenn Slater

In 1959 Greenwich Village, tragically square Walter Paisley finds that his clay figures, sculpted nudes and papier-mâché busts bring him the acceptance he desperately yearns for. But what if the world discovered that Walter's body of work consists of actual bodies? This A bebop-inflected black comedy/satire is based on the Roger Corman film *A Bucket of Blood*.

The Cuban and the Redhead

By Robert Bartley and Danny Whitman

Escaping the bloodshed of his native Island, a young Cuban boy sets sail on a turbulent journey that leads him all the way to Hollywood and into the arms of a fiery, redheaded movie star named Lucille Ball. At the climax of *The Cuban and the Redhead* (formerly known as *Dance with Me*), Desi and Lucy put their money, their trust and their dreams on the line in a gamble to save one thing—their marriage—risking it all on an untested medium called television.

The Legend of Stagecoach Mary

By Thomas Mizer and Curtis Moore

Ex-slave Mary Fields turns the idea of the real Wild West hero on its head when she travels to 1880s Montana to find freedom, adventure and her long-lost best friend. Along the way, she discovers a gaggle of square-dancing nuns and a town full of cowboys in need of a little lesson in the American Dream.

Ordinary Days

By Adam Gwon

When Deb loses her most precious possession—the notes to her graduate thesis—she unwittingly starts a chain of events that turns the ordinary days of four New Yorkers into something extraordinary. Told through a series of intricately connected songs and vignettes, *Ordinary Days* is an original musical about growing up and enjoying the view.

Pamela's First Musical

Book by Wendy Wasserstein; lyrics by David Zippel; music by Cy Coleman

Pamela is a young suburban girl who feels out of place. Her mother has passed away and she lives with her father and two brothers who don't understand her. Pamela's active fantasy life and infatuation with Broadway cast CDs keeps her from being too lonely. On her 11th birthday, she learns that her father is about to re-marry. Just when Pamela thinks her entire world is going to crash, her eccentric Aunt Louise, a fashion designer, sweeps Pamela off to New York City and her first Broadway musical.

See Rock City & Other Destinations

Book and lyrics by Adam Mathias; music by Brad Alexander

This winner of the 2008 Richard Rodgers Award uses a pop-rock score, to venture to tourist destinations across America (from Coney Island to Mt. McKinley, the Alamo to Niagara Falls), mapping out stories of sightseers who need to get a little lost in order to find themselves.

The Yellow Wood

Book by Michelle Elliott; music by Danny Larsen; lyrics by Elliott and Larsen

Seventeen-year-old Adam is frantically trying to memorize Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" before English, but because he didn't take his Ritalin, he can't get much farther than the "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood..." before a fantastic wood begins coming to life in his school. Adam is pulled deeper and deeper into the Yellow Wood, where he must face the reality of who he is and decide who he will ultimately become.