



Tuesday, September 9 2008

National Alliance announces participants

Musical Theater festival kicks off this fall

By Gordon Cox

Thesps Norm Lewis, Kate Shindle and Daniel Reichard and helmers Christopher Gatelli, Robert Longbottom and B.D. Wong are among the creatives signed on to participate in the annual fest of the National Alliance for Musical Theater this fall.

David Zippel, who penned the lyrics for "Pamela's First Musical," also directs the show, which has a cast that includes Reichard and Steven Bogardus. With book by the late Wendy Wasserstein (based on her children's book) and music by the late Cy Coleman, "Pamela" is one of the fest's highest profile offerings.

Longbottom ("Flower Drum Song") will helm black comedy "Beatsville" by Wendy Wilfand Glenn Slater. Gatelli, choreographer of "South Pacific," directs Thomas Mizer and Curtis Moore's Wild West-set "The Legend of Stagecoach Mary," while thesp-director Wong takes on fantasy-tinged "The Yellow Wood" by Michaelle Elliott and Danny Larsen.

Shindle ("Legally Blonde") stars in Adam Gwon's story of four Gothamites, "Ordinary Days." Lewis ("The Little Mermaid") appears in Cheryl Davis and Douglas Cohen's aviatrix tale "Barnstormer."

An industry-only event now in its 20th year, the NAMT fest showcases excerpts of developing tuners for legit producers and presenters. Alums include "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "The Drowsy Chaperone" and the Rialto-bound musical version of "Vanities."

n|a|m|t

NATIONAL ALLIANCE
for MUSICAL THEATRE