



Tuesday, October 7, 2008

A Superhero and Adam Lives Set for NAMT Showcase; Festival Casting Complete

By Adam Hetrick

Casting is now complete for the industry-only 2008 NAMT Festival of New Musicals that will be presented at New World Stages Oct. 20-21 in New York City.

Additional names have been revealed for the eight musicals that will receive industry presentations for potential producers and regional companies seeking to aid in the development of new work.

National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) has also released the names of the musicals that will be represented in its songwriter showcase on Oct. 21. John Simpkins (*The Black Suits*) will direct the 1:30 PM showcase hosted by Tony nominee Robin De Jesus (*In the Heights*).

Among the works that will be highlighted are *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 and 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) and *Victor Woo* (music & lyrics by Kevin So, book by Kevin Merritt).

Performing songs from these new musicals will be Patina Renea Miller (*Hair, Romantic Poetry*), Lauren Pritchard (*Spring Awakening*), Chris Anderson, David Driver, Raymond J. Lee (*Mamma Mia!*), Sean McCourt (*Mary Poppins*), Lindsay Mendez (*Grease*), Connie Petruk, Tricia Scott and Christopher Totten.

Complete casting for the 2008 NAMT selected musicals follows:

- **Barnstormer**, featuring book and lyrics by Cheryl L. Davis and music by Douglas J. Cohen (*The Big Time*).

Jerry Dixon (*Laugh Whore, Once on This Island*) directs a cast including Kenita Miller (*Xanadu*), Norm Lewis (*The Little Mermaid*), Tina Fabrique (*Ella*), Stu James (*The Color Purple*), C.E. Smith (*The Full Monty*), Glenn Turner (*Five Guys Named Moe*) and Rema Webb (*The Lion King*).

- **Beatsville**, with music and lyrics by Wendy Leigh Wilf and a book by Glenn Slater (*The Little Mermaid*). Based on the film "A Bucket of Blood."

Todd Buonopane (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), Alli Mauzey (*Cry-Baby*), Hilary Gardner, Tommar Wilson (*Hairspray*), Cameron Barnett, Beth Malone (*Marvelous Wonderettes*), Richard Roland (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*), Stephen DeRosa (*The Gershwins' An American in Paris*), Marla Mindelle, Joe Kenosian and Dan Sherman appear in *Beatsville*, under the direction of Tony nominee Robert Longbottom (*Side Show, Flower Drum Song*).

- ***The Cuban and the Redhead***, penned by *Broadway Backwards* creators Robert Bartley and Danny Whitman.

Robert Bartley directs *High Fidelity* star Jenn Colella as Lucy, opposite *Gypsy*'s Tony Yazbeck as Desi in a cast that also features Eileen Galindo, Michelle Blakely (*Annie Get Your Gun*), Jessica Carter, Hattie Davis, Morgan James, Jay Russell (*The Play What I Wrote*), Tim Salamandyk, Roland Rusinek, Philip D'Amore and Kirsten Wyatt (*Grease*).

- ***The Legend of Stagecoach Mary***, created by Thomas Mizer and Curtis Moore.

Tony nominee Christopher Gatelli (*South Pacific*) directs Danielle Lee Greaves (*Rent*) in the title role. *Stagecoach Mary* also features Madeleine Doherty (*The Producers*), Sarah Saltzberg (*Spelling Bee*), J. Austin Eyer (*The Secret Garden*), Josh Henry (*In The Heights*), Steve Kazee (*110 in the Shade*), Jose Llana (*Spelling Bee*), Jason Patrick Sands (*A Chorus Line*) and Nick Wyman (*A Tale of Two Cities*).

- ***Ordinary Days***, written by Adam Gwon.

Legally Blonde's Kate Shindle and Kate Wetherhead join Jared Gertner (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*) and Adam Jacobs (*Les Miserables*) for *Ordinary Days*, under the direction of Matt Toronto.

- ***Pamela's First Musical***, created by the Tony-winning trio of Wendy Wasserstein (book), David Zippel (lyrics) and Cy Coleman (music).

Lyricist David Zippel directs *Mary Poppins'* Lila Coogan as Pamela in a cast that also features Daniel Reichard (*Jersey Boys*), Steven Bogardus (*Irving Berlin's White Christmas, Fallettos*), Karen Ziemba (*Curtains*), Lewis Stadlen (*The Producers*), Dan Bogart (*Les Miserables*), Dan Petrotta (*A Tale of Two Cities*), Devin Richards (*A Tale of Two Cities*), Adam Jacobs (*Les Miserables*), Deborah Lew (*Beauty and the Beast*), Allison Blackwell, Carrie A. Johnson and Allison Walla.

- ***See Rock City & Other Destinations***, with book and lyrics by Adam Mathias and music by Brad Alexander.

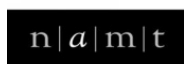
Altar Boyz book writer Kevin Del Aguila directs the musical that will feature Skylar Astin (*Spring Awakening*), Jill Abramovitz (*Fame Becomes Me*), John Jellison (*All Shook Up*), Cassie Wooley, David Rossmer (*Titanic*) and Wesley Taylor.

- ***The Yellow Wood***, with a book by Michelle Elliot, music by Danny Larsen and lyrics by both Elliot and Larsen.

Brian Yorkey, replaces B.D. Wong as the director of *Yellow Wood*, which features Danny Larsen, Melinda Bass, Randy Blair (*Adding Machine*), Bob De Dea, MaryAnn Hu (*South Pacific*), Diana Huey Morgan Weed (*Saved*) and Amy Linden.

Musicals previously presented in NAMT's Festival of New Musicals include *Vanities, Dangerous Beauty, Emma, The Gypsy King, The Story of My Life, Tinyard Hill, The Drowsy Chaperone, Thoroughly Modern Millie, 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 www.namt.org.



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