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Gordon Greenberg, Kyle Jarrow, Peter Mills, et al. Set for NAMT's Festival of New Musicals

By Brian Scott Lipton



The National Alliance of Musical Theatre has announced selections for its 21st Annual Festival of New Musicals, to take place October 19-20 at a still-to-be-announced location.

This year's selections are *Band Geeks* about the misfit members of a high school marching band, by Tommy Newman, Gordon Greenberg, Gaby Alter, and Mark Allen; *Factory Girls* by Creighton Irons and Sean Mahoney, a musical about a young woman who leaves New Hampshire to work in a Massachusetts mill in 1844 and eventually fights the corporation when conditions deteriorate; *Hostage Song*, by Clay McLeod Chapman and Kyle Jarrow, which focuses on two hostages in a war-torn country; *How Can You Run With a Shell on Your Back?*, by Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler, about a stranger who tells Aesop's fables to six students stuck in detention; *Iron Curtain*, a farce about American songwriters kidnapped by the KGB to act as

show doctors for a communist propaganda musical, by Susan DiLallo, Stephen Weiner, and Peter Mills; *It Shoulda Been You*, a comedy about a wedding, Brian Hargrove, Barbara Anselmi, and additional lyricists; *Memory Is the Mother of All Wisdom*, by Sara Cooper and Zach Redler, about a woman with Alzheimer's and the estranged daughter who moves back to takes care of her; and Duane Nelsen's *Ripper*, a Victorian thriller about an illusionist who saws women in half while a reporter looks into a series of murders.

NAMT is an industry event, but members of the public can attend the readings if there is space. For more information, visit www.namt.org.