



NATIONAL ALLIANCE  
for MUSICAL THEATRE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **NAMT ANNOUNCES FINAL CASTING FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS AND SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE**

**Matt Doyle, Fred Berman, Robert Hager, Ivan Rutherford, Jason Tam, Barbara Walsh, Noah Weisberg join 90 actors appearing in NAMT's Festival.**

**October 12, 2009, NY-** With the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival of New Musicals** only a week away, the **National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT)** and **Executive Director Kathy Evans** announced final casting for the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival of New Musical and the Songwriters Showcase**, which will be Co-hosted by **David Zippel & Dee Hoty**. The Festival will be held at **New World Stages** (340 West 50th St) on **Monday, October 19** and **Tuesday, October 20, 2009**. The Festival is the premiere industry-only event which introduces theatre professionals to emerging writers, presenting eight 45-minute showcases over two days. [www.namt.org](http://www.namt.org)

### **SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE**

Co-Hosted by David Zippel (Tony Winner- *City of Angels*) and Dee Hoty (*Bye Bye Birdie*), the showcase will present:

- THE AVERAGEACHIEVERS CLUB** music & lyrics by Benji Goldsmith, book & lyrics by Jonathan Karpinos
- THE BLACK SUITS** music & lyrics by Joe Iconis, book by Iconis & Robert Maddock
- CRAZY, JUST LIKE ME** by Drew Gasparini
- THE GREAT AMERICAN RACE** by Patrick Barry
- POP!** book and lyrics by Maggie-Kate Coleman, music by Anna K. Jacobs
- SOUTHERN COMFORT** book & lyrics by Dan Collins, music by Julianne Wick Davis, based on the documentary by Kate Davis
- VENICE** by Eric Rosen & Matt Sax, with additional music by Curtis Moore
- WHILE I WAIT** music by Deborah Abramson, book & lyrics by Amanda Yesnowitz

Songwriters Showcase Performers include:

Matt Doyle (*Bye Bye Birdie*), Robert Hager (*Bye Bye Birdie*), Leslie Kritzer (*A Catered Affair*), Nathan Scherich (*Jersey Boys- Nat'l Tour*), Jason Tam (*A Chorus Line*), Barbara

Walsh (Tony Nominee- *Falsettos*), Noah Weisberg (*Legally Blonde*), Brandon Anderson, Justin Anthony, Amy Burgess, Michael Deleget (*Goodpeed's Camelot*), Tara Giordano (*Lunch*), Amy Linden, Gary Lowery, Keeshon Morrow, Cristen Paige, Cody Ryan, Meg Steedle (*Asphalt Beach*), Joel Waggoner,

The Songwriters Showcase is directed by **NAMT's New Works Director Branden Huldeen.**

**For the Festival, the final directors and casts are:**

**BAND GEEKS!**

Book by Tommy Newman & Gordon Greenberg, Lyrics by Gaby Alter & Tommy Newman  
Music by Mark Allen, Gaby Alter & Tommy Newman, Concept by Tommy Newman

**Director:** Gordon Greenberg (*Happy Days, Working*)

**Music Director:** David Loud (*Ragtime, Curtains*)

**Cast:** Jill Abramovitz (*Fame Becomes Me*)  
Aaron J. Albano (*Mary Poppins*)  
Marie-France Arcilla (*Lizzie Borden*)  
Lindsay Mendez (*Everyday Rapture*)  
John Bolton (*Curtains*)  
Alex Brightman (*Wicked*)  
Adam Chanler-Berat (*Next To Normal*)  
Dwayne Clark (*In The Heights*)  
Jared Gertner (*Ordinary Days*)  
Griffin Matthews (*Papermill's 1776*)  
Patti Murin (*Xanadu*)  
Kat Palardy (*First Wives Club*)

**FACTORY GIRLS**

By Creighton Irons and Sean Mahoney

**Director:** Victoria Bussert

**Music Director:** Matt Hinkley (*Rooms*)

**Cast:** Steel Burkhardt (*Hair*)  
Kayce Cummings  
Allison Cusano  
Kate Ferber  
Tom Ford (*By Jeeves*)  
Molly Hager  
Anika Larsen (*Avenue Q*)  
David Larsen (*Billy Elliot*)  
Carrie Manolakos (*Mamma Mia!*)  
Kate Rockwell (*Legally Blonde*)  
Dana Steingold (*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*)  
Nicole Weiss

## **HOSTAGE SONG**

Book by Clay McLeod Chapman, Music & Lyrics by Kyle Jarrow

**Director:** Oliver Butler (co-founder of The Debate Society)

**Music Director:** Nathan Leigh (*Big Money*)

**Cast:** Jeb Brown (*Grease*)  
Susan Goodwillie (*Mourning Becomes Electra*)  
John Hickok (*Aida*)  
Maria-Christina Oliveras (*Night Sky*)  
Caesar Samoya (*Under Fire*)

## **HOW CAN YOU RUN WITH A SHELL ON YOUR BACK?**

By Michael Mahler and Alan Schmuckler

**Director:** Kent Nicholson (*Long Story Short* at San Diego Rep)

**Music Director:** Deborah Abramson (*Bernada Alba* at Lincoln Center Theater)

**Cast:** Carey Anderson (*Mamma Mia!*)  
Gideon Glick (*Spring Awakening*)  
Emma Hunton (*Spring Awakening*)  
Melissa Menezes  
Derrick Trumbly  
Greg Vinkler (*West Side Story*)  
Noah Weisberg (*Legally Blonde*)

## **IRON CURTAIN**

Book by Susan DiLallo, Music by Stephen Weiner, Lyrics by Peter Mills

**Director:** Cara Reichel (*Illyria*)

**Music Director:** Remy Kurs (*The Dome*)

**Cast:** Fred Applegate (*The Producers*)  
Maria Couch  
Gregg Edelman (*Wonderful Town*)  
David Foley, Jr.  
Liz Larsen (*A New Brain*)  
Lisa Mindelle  
Aaron Ramey (*Curtains*)  
Dara Seitzman  
Doug Shapiro (*Jekyll and Hyde in Concert*)  
Robby Sharpe (*The Pursuit of Persephone*)  
Jim Stanek (*Little Women*)  
Betsy Wolfe (*Everyday Rapture*)

## **IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU**

Book & Lyrics by Brian Hargrove, Music by Barbara Anselmi

**Director:** Michael Bush (*Stormy Weather*)

**Music Director:** T.O. Sterrett (*Wicked*)

**Cast:** Becca Ayers (*Sarah, Plain and Tall*)  
Fred Berman (*Shockheaded Peter*)  
Jeremy Ellison Gladstone (*The Fantasticks*)  
Nathan Lee Graham (*Wig Out!*)

Joe Grifasi (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*)  
Colin Hanlon (*I Love You Because*)  
Harriet Harris (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*)  
Lisa Howard (*The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*)  
Marla Mindelle (*The Drowsy Chaperone Nat'l Tour*)  
Debra Monk (*Curtains*)  
Michael Tucker (*Enter Laughing*)  
Nick Wyman (*Catch Me If You Can*)

**MEMORY IS THE MOTHER OF ALL WISDOM**

Book & Lyrics by Sara Cooper, Music by Zach Redler

**Director:** Joe Calarco (*Sarah, Plain and Tall*)

**Music Director:** Vadim Feichner (*Ordinary Days*)

**Cast:** Catherine Cox (*Baby*)

Leslie Kritzer (*A Catered Affair*)

**RIPPER**

By Duane Nelsen

**Director:** John Simpkins (*The Black Suits*)

**Music Director:** Brian Usifer (*Fantasty Football*)

**Cast:** Jen Babiak (*Fiddler on the Roof*)

Cyrilla Baer (*The Adding Machine*)

Neal Benari (*Aida*)

Michael Kadin Craig (*Altar Boyz*)

Joan Hess (*Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*)

Liz McCartney (*South Pacific*)

Eric William Morris (*Mamma Mia!*)

Rob Richardson (*Tale of Two Cities*)

Ivan Rutherford (*Titanic*)

Elena Shaddow (*The Light in the Piazza Nat'l Tour*)

Kate Shindle (*Legally Blonde*)

Bruce Winant (*Ragtime*)

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**Admission to the FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS is open to Industry Professionals only.**

**Industry professionals may register now on [www.namt.org](http://www.namt.org).**

A stand by line is open to the general public. Historically all stand by patrons have been able to see the Festival shows.

**Members of the media that wish to attend should contact Executive Director Kathy Evans at [Kathy@namt.org](mailto:Kathy@namt.org) or 212-714-6668 ext. 11 to obtain press credentials.**

Since 1989, NAMT's **FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS** has introduced theatre producers to more than 220 musicals and 350 writers. More than three-fourths of these shows have had further development, tours and licensing agreements, leading to thousands of subsequent productions. Past festival highlights have included the multiple Tony Award winning *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, as well as *Children of Eden*, *Honk!*, *Ordinary Days*, *Songs for a New World*, *Striking 12*, *Summer of '42* and *Vanities, A New Musical*.

The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Festival of New Musicals is overseen by Festival Artistic Director and NAMT New Works Director Branden Huldeen and General Manager Lisa Dozier.

NAMT is very grateful to the following foundations and government agencies for supporting the mission to nurture the production of new musicals and classics:

**The ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Fund, The BW Foundation, The Dramatists Guild Fund, Friars Foundation, Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Theater Foundation, The Mackintosh Foundation, The Mindich Family Foundation, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Foundation, The Shen Family Foundation, and The Shubert Foundation.**

**The Festival of New Musicals is supported in part by a generous award from the National Endowment for the Arts, and by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.**

We also thank the following sponsors for supporting our Festival of New Musicals. Without them we couldn't present these talented artists to the theatre industry:

**Gold Sponsors: The 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theatre, Broadway/L.A. Nederlander, Dallas Summer Musicals, Goodspeed Musicals, The Muny, Pittsburgh CLO, Samuel French, SenovvA, TheaterMania.com, and Theatre Under The Stars.**

**Silver Sponsors: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Fox Theatre of St. Louis, and Walnut Street Theatre.**

#### **NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MUSICAL THEATRE (NAMT)**

Founded in 1985, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT) is a national service organization dedicated exclusively to musical theatre. Our 150+ members, located throughout 31 states and 8 countries, include theatres, presenters, universities, and independent producers who share our commitment to nurture the creation, production, and recognition of new musicals and classics. Last season, NAMT members cumulatively staged over 26,000 performances attended by 15 million people. NAMT has presented its annual FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS since 1989. The Festival makes "a major impact on the world of musical theatre," according to American Theater Magazine, by bringing together leading theatre producers and musical theatre writers. NAMT's other programs include conferences, new works summits, and the National Fund for New Musicals, which provides grants to support the development and production of new musicals. For more information, visit [www.namt.org](http://www.namt.org).