



## **Festival of New Musicals to Feature D'Abruzzo, Foster, Murney, Porter and More**

By Andrew Gans  
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Casting has been announced for the eight musicals that will comprise the **17th Annual Festival of New Musicals, which is presented by the National Alliance for Musical Theatre**. A host of Broadway favorites — including Hunter Foster, Stephanie D'Abruzzo, Terrence Mann, Will Chase, Julia Murney, Billy Porter and Michael Rupert — will be featured in the festival, which is held Sept. 25-26 at Dodger Stages.

The eight selected musicals, which were culled from more than 100 applicants, follow.

•*Ace* by Robert Taylor and Richard Oberacker; directed by Steven Minning; starring Christiane Noll

•*Caraboo, Princess of Javasu* by Marsha Norman, Beth Blatt and Jenny Giering; directed by Will Frears; starring Celia Keenan-Bolger and Andrew Lippa

•*The Funkentine Rapture* by Lee Summers and Ben Blake; directed by Summers; starring Billy Porter and Marva Hicks

•*I Love You Because* by Ryan Cunningham and Joshua Salzman; directed by Daniel Kutner; starring Stephanie D'Abruzzo

•*A Little Princess* by Brian Crawley and Andrew Lippa; directed by Susan H. Schulman; starring Will Chase and Julia Murney

•*Meet John Doe* by Andrew Gerle, Eddie Sugarman and Matt August; directed by Joe Calarco; starring Donna Lynne Champlin and Michael Rupert

•*Party Come Here* by Daniel Goldfarb and David Kirshenbaum; directed by Lonny Price; starring Fyvush Finkel, Hunter Foster and Terrence Mann

•*River's End* by Cheri Coons and Chuck Larkin; directed by Lee Sankowich; starring Matt Farnsworth and Jodie Langel

Since its inception in 1989, the NAMT Festival has presented more than 170 musicals, including *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Princesses*, *Honk!*, *Songs for a New World*, *Summer of '42* and *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin*.

Admission to the Festival is by invitation only.

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