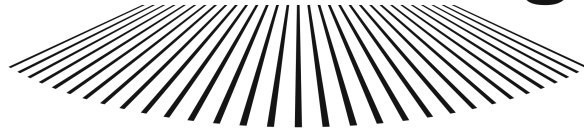


The Western Stage



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Written by Jeffrey T. Heyer

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The Western Stage Production of

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Music by Alan Mencken

Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

Book by Peter Parnell

Based on the Victor Hugo novel and songs from the Disney film

Originally Developed by Disney Theatrical Productions

tagline: A tragic tale of isolation, love, rejection and acceptance and how the unlikely of us can be a hero

THE STORY:

In 1482 Paris, a dying Jehan pleads with his brother, Archdeacon Claude Frollo, to raise Jehan's "monstrous" son, the baby of a Romani woman. Though repulsed by the infant, Frollo agrees and names the baby Quasimodo, or Half-Formed. To prevent Quasimodo from being subject to the horror and scorn of the outside world, Frollo keeps him isolated in the bell tower of the cathedral of Notre Dame. Twenty years later, Quasimodo has grown into a simple but very strong young man. To relieve his loneliness between Frollo's infrequent visits, Quasimodo imagines that the gargoyles carved atop the cathedral are his friends.

The Parisians hold a festival and the local Romani, including the free-spirited Esmeralda, meet in the Court of Miracles where they plan how to use the festival to their advantage. Phoebus, one of Frollo's soldiers, arrives in Paris, excited about his recent promotion to Captain of the Guards. Frollo's first assignment for Phoebus is to find the Court of Miracles and eliminate the Romani.

Quasimodo dreams of experiencing life outside the bell tower and sets out to do so. At first the crowd celebrates his grotesque appearance and he feels accepted. When Frollo's men start a riot, the crowd turns on Quasimodo and Frollo decides to teach him a lesson by allowing him to be whipped. Esmeralda, feeling empathy for his suffering, uses a stage magic trick to help him escape, which results in Esmeralda being accused of witchcraft. Phoebus, entranced by her beauty and spirit, allows Esmeralda to find sanctuary in the cathedral instead of a prison. She discovers the bell tower and befriends Quasimodo, who helps her escape Notre Dame.

Frollo is aghast to find himself lusting for Esmeralda and prays to the Virgin Mary to save him from her "spell." Discovering Esmeralda's escape, Frollo launches a citywide hunt for her, setting fire to the houses of those suspected of harboring her. Phoebus is appalled and defies the order to kill, so Frollo sentences him to death.

Esmeralda convinces Phoebus to claim sanctuary in Notre Dame while she returns to the Court of Miracles. The Gargoyles convince Quasimodo that Esmeralda is attracted to him. Knowing Quasimodo to be Esmeralda's friend, Phoebus asks his help in staying hidden in the cathedral.

Frollo discovers that Quasimodo helped Esmeralda escape, so he lies, announcing that he knows where the Court of Miracles is hidden and will attack it at dawn, setting a trap. Phoebus comes out of hiding and asks Quasimodo to help him get there first to warn Esmeralda. Using Esmeralda's amulet as a guide, they find the Court of Miracles and warn the Romani. Esmeralda and Phoebus decide to leave the city together and the heartbroken Quasimodo must watch Esmeralda leave with the man she loves. But Frollo, having followed Phoebus and Quasimodo, captures them all.

Caught between his desire to be what his narrow religious strictures require of a good man and his desire to possess Esmeralda, Frollo demands that she sleep with him or be burnt as a witch. Esmeralda rejects him. Tied up in the bell tower, the despairing Quasimodo tells his imaginary gargoyle friends to leave him.

When Frollo ties Esmeralda to the stake, Quasimodo casts off his hurt and rescues her, carrying her to sanctuary in the cathedral. Phoebus frees himself and the Romani, and together they rally the oppressed citizens of Paris against Frollo and his men, who are trying to break into the cathedral. Quasimodo pours molten lead onto the streets to drive them back, but Frollo manages to break in alone. Inside the cathedral, Esmeralda thanks Quasimodo for being a good friend before she dies. Frollo arrives and tells Quasimodo that they are finally free of her witchcraft. Quasimodo hurls Frollo to his death into the molten lead. Phoebus rushes in to see a heartbroken Quasimodo embracing Esmeralda.

WHY THIS PLAY WAS CHOSEN:

This Fiftieth Anniversary season of The Western Stage is an homage to its four Artistic Directors, and a celebration of its history as reflected in a series of titles not previously produced at Western Stage. TWS' season opener, *Merrily We Roll Along*, was a nod to Jon Patrick Selover and his notable series of Sondheim musicals. This third show of the season, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, celebrates Tom Humphrey's artistic directorship, known for its large community shows that mixed new performers and veteran, children and mature folk. With a look at human nature and what leads to othering and exclusion, or to compassion and acceptance, and told in sweeping symphonic music from Stephen Schwartz, it is similar to Humphrey's Steinbeck adaptations and titles like *Children of Eden* and *Pippin*.

M. William Shiner, was part of TWS' company from 1995-98, and he returns to TWS for its 50th anniversary as a Guest Director. Matthew was part of the production team of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* during its development for its North American premiere in 2014. Matthew then served as an associate director with Disney, who mounted the new staging in Japan in 2016 and in Germany in 2017.

BACKGROUND OF THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME:

Victor Hugo wrote the novel in 1831. In 1996, Walt Disney Animation Studios released a hit animated musical version. The Disney Musical Productions adaptation, featuring rewritten versions of some of the Disney songs but with a plot returning to some of the darkness of Hugo's original novel, premiered in Germany in 1999. Peter Parnell revised the book for the English-language version. This debuted at La Jolla Playhouse, San Diego on October 28, 2014. It ran until December 7 of the same year. More changes were made in the libretto and it opened at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, New Jersey on March 4, 2015. It closed April 5 of that year.

THE AUTHOR:

Peter Parnell (Book) is an American Broadway and Off-Broadway playwright, television writer, and children's book author. Parnell is also Vice-President of the Dramatists Guild of America, the professional association of playwrights, composers, lyricists, and librettists.

Alan Menken (Music), received two Academy Awards each for his music for *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, and *Pocahontas*. Mencken wrote other scores and songs for such shows as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Newsies*, *Hercules*, *Home on the Range*, *Enchanted* and *Tangled*. He has received eight Academy Awards, only one less than Alfred Newman the most prolific Oscar winner. Mencken also received a Tony, eleven Grammys,

seven Golden Globes and a Daytime Emmy. He is one of only nineteen people to have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony.

Stephen Schwartz (Lyrics) wrote such hit musicals as *Godspell*, *Pippin*, and *Wicked*. He contributed lyrics to such films as *Pocahontas*, *The Prince of Egypt* and *Enchanted*. Schwartz received three Grammys, three Academy Awards and a Golden Globe. He was nominated for six Tonys and a Laurence Olivier Award. He received the 2015 Tony Award's Isabelle Stevenson Award. Schwartz is one of only two composer/lyricists who has had three shows run more than fifteen hundred performances on Broadway.

ARTISTIC TEAM:

Directed by: M. William Shiner. Shiner is an Assistant Professor of Stage Management/Director of Production at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. His thirty years of professional stage work included such companies as the La Jolla Playhouse, Dallas Theatre Center, Shakespeare Theatre Company, NY's Public Theatre (including two Shakespeare in the Parks), and six years with Disney Theatricals. Shiner has worked in dance, opera, theatre, new works, music concerts, special events, corporate events and circus. He has a BA in Theater from the University of California, Santa Barbara (graduated with honors, emphasis in playwriting and directing). He received his MFA in Stage Management from the University of California, San Diego. He also attended the University of California, Irvine. Shiner knows this musical, having been the Production Stage Manager for the American Premiere of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at La Jolla Playhouse and for its revised remounting at Paper Mill Playhouse. Shiner was also the Associate Director/Production Supervisor for "*Hunchback*", directing and mounting a Japanese Production in Tokyo, and a production in German in Berlin, Munich and Stuttgart.

Music Direction: Don Dally
Choreography: Camrin E. Dannelly
Stage Management: Zalissa Ré Johnson
Scenic Design: Marc Haniuk
Lighting Design: Derek Duarte
Costume Design: Maegan Roux
Projection & Sound Design: Dante Carballo

CAST:

Quasimodo
Esmeralda
Archdeacon Claude Frollo
Phoebus
Clopin

Christian McCooey
Rosie Quintana
Jared W. Hussey
Dale Thompson
Mike Baker

CONGREGANTS

Jehan/Evil Soldier/ Gargoyle/ St. Aphrodesias
Madam/Messenger/Gargoyle
Frederic/Gargoyle
King Louis XI/Gargoyle
Mom/ Gargoyle
Gargoyle
Gargoyle
Whipper/Father Dupin/Official
Florika

Eric Wishnie
Pat Horsley
Spencer Wolf
James "Pete" Russell
Anna Schumacher
Angelica Martinez
Josh Kaiser
Sam Trevino
Rachel Pasculli
Jacqueline Galán
Caleb Pierce
Alanna Youngblood
Diane Elhers
Tom Kiatta

ENSEMBLE

****MORE****

WHEN:

July 27, 28, August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18
Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:

The Mainstage Theater, Center for Performing Arts/Building K
Hartnell College Main Campus, 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, CA.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Online tickets and more information: westernstage.com

Adult \$30; Seniors/Military/Teachers \$24; Hartnell Students FREE; Other Students \$16; Youths (5-15) \$12;
Hartnell Faculty & Staff \$15; Student Rush \$5;

Group tickets available by contacting the TWS Box Office **(831) 755-6816**.

TWS Box Office is open Wednesday-Saturday 5:00-8:00pm. and Sundays with performances 12-3pm.
Leave voicemail to get a return call within 24 hours.

ACCOMMODATIONS

This event is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the ticket office at least one week prior to the event.

CURRENT COVID-19 INFORMATION

The Western Stage is not requiring masking or proof of COVID-19 negative test result or vaccination at this time. Ticket holders are asked to not attend if they have temperature or other symptoms or have been recently exposed to COVID-19 or have recently tested positive for COVID-19. This policy is subject to change based increase infection rates and or Hartnell College policy updates.

ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE – ESTABLISHED 1974

The Western Stage (TWS) is a professionally managed, community-based theatre company and educational program that provides opportunities for the creative process and high-level artistic experiences. Led by its educational mission and believing that strong arts experiences are important for building innovative, creative, and resilient communities, The Western Stage endeavors to offer a robust variety of programs designed for personal growth and skill development that address the need for a safe space where students and theatre enthusiasts may engage in theatre production while working side-by-side with theatre professionals. Through its annual production season, The Western Stage endeavors to provide strong pathways and development for artists throughout the continuum of a career in theatre and its related performing arts. The Western Stage develops new works that speak to the history and culture of the Salinas Valley and provides educational opportunities for students of all skill levels to explore and develop their unique talent. www.westernstage.com

ABOUT HARTNELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – ESTABLISHED 1920

The Hartnell CCD provides educational services to the Salinas Valley and its neighboring regions through its main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus in East Salinas, and education centers in King City, Soledad, and Castroville. Hartnell College is a Hispanic Serving Institution that provides associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and certificate programs. It prepares students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities and to enter the workforce with necessary skills. Hartnell College is known for its innovative public and private partnerships that support world class education for STEM, career technical education, fine and performing arts, humanities and social sciences, nursing and health sciences, and athletics. We are proud to be winners of the 2015 Innovation Award for CSin3 –a Computer Science collaboration with CSU Monterey Bay that leads to a bachelor's degree in three years. **We are growing leaders through opportunity, engagement and achievement.** For more about Hartnell CCD, visit www.hartnell.edu.

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