

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEAD OVER HEELS

a musical comedy

songs by The Go-Go's

based on "The Arcadia" by Sir Philip Sidney

conceived and original book by Jeff Whitty

adapted by James Magruder

HEAD OVER HEELS is a carnival of joy and a bold celebration of love in all its forms and diversity. Not only does it feature the high-energy music of the legendary pop-rock band the Go-Go's and Shakespeare-style verse, it also is cast with some of the best and biggest voices in the area. Local audiences will recognize the names of principal actors Velvet Piini, Nikole Moon, Jennifer Foreman, RJ Wayne, Nico Abiera and Sarah (nee Horn) Gaudoin from the many roles they have inhabited locally. Director Leo Cortez offers up a "valentine to the community" melding together the talents of returning TWS alumni with that of new-to-TWS artists, creating a wonderful, theatrical experience that is at once profane and poignant, heartfelt and hilarious, and yes, it features eye-popping singing!

Head Over Heels is based on *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, written by Philip Sidney in the 16th century, and tells the story of how the royal court of Arcadia responds to a set of prophecies that threaten to upend the very identity and well-being of the kingdom. Should it not be able to avoid the prophecies foretold by the mystical Oracle of Delphi, the kingdom will lose its mysterious "Beat," the divine power that ensures the kingdom's prosperity. The plot moves through journeys into the woods, lies and deception, usurped kingship, unlikely lovers, interfamily strife, and gender-fluid disguises, as it preaches unconditional love and acceptance of oneself and others, no matter their gender or sexual identity. And it uses some of the greatest pop rock hits of the late 20th century to do so. *Head Over Heels* debuted at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in June 2015, and three years later played at the Curran Theatre in San Francisco for a pre-Broadway engagement. It opened on Broadway in July 2018 for a five-month run.

The Go-Go's are an American rock group formed in 1978, still active from time to time today. They are widely considered to be the most successful all-female rock band of all time. The five original members came out of the heavily male punk rock scene in Los Angeles and were instrumental in establishing the "new wave" in the United States. Their debut album, *Beauty and the Beat*, contained two top 20 hits and eventually topped the *Billboard* album chart for six weeks in 1982, on its way to selling more than two million copies. The song "Head Over Heels" is from their *Vacation* album. The band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2021.

Head Over Heels was chosen for TWS' 2022 season because it is a beautiful and strong representation of queer folk and female empowerment that lifts up the courage needed to evoke change in a traditional society through being true to oneself, forging better paths, and creating new rules.

MORE

Direction: **Leo Cortez**
Music direction: **Don Dally**
Choreography: **Camrin Dannelly**
Stage management: **Zalissa Ré Johnson**
Costume design: **Rebecca Rankin**
Hair and makeup design: **Maegan Roux**
Lighting design: **Derek Duarte**
Scenic design: **Marc Haniuk**
Sound design: **Dante Carballo**

CAST LIST

Basilius, King of Arcadia: **JR Wayne**
Gynicia, Queen of Arcadia: **Jennifer Foreman**
Pamela, their elder daughter: **Velvet Piini**
Philoclea, their younger daughter: **Sarah Gaudoin**
Pythio, the Oracle: **Adrian Murillo/Dahlia Rosé**
Musidorus, a shepherd, beloved of Philoclea: **Nico Abiera**
Dametas, the King's Viceroy
Mopsa, Demitas' daughter, handmaid to Pamela: **Nikole Moon**
Ensemble: **Angelica Martinez, Michelle Martinez, Jonathan Perez, John Piper, Antonio Rico, Finn Staker**

DATA

WHAT

A live stage performance of *Head Over Heels*, a musical comedy.

WHEN

September 17- October 1, 2022. Thursday/Friday/Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Sundays and special Saturdays at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE

The Hartnell College Performing Arts Center, Building K, 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, CA.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Adult \$30; Seniors/Military/Teachers \$24; Students \$16 (Hartnell Students FREE); Children (5-15) \$12;
Online tickets and more information: westernstage.com or call **(831) 755-6816**. Box Office is open
Wednesday-Saturday 5:00-8:00p.m. and one hour before curtain time on matinee Sundays. Leave VM to
get callback 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

Proof of full vaccination or recent negative COVID-19 test result and a picture I.D. required to enter the Performing Arts Center. Audiences are masked and distanced during performances.

PRESS

Please contact Lupita Rodriquez (831) 755-6987 or email: lmrodriguez@hartnell.edu.

MORE

ABOUT THE WESTERN STAGE – ESTABLISHED 1974

The Western Stage (TWS) is a professionally managed, community-based theatre company and educational program that nurtures and develops our students’ and community’s passion for the creative process and desire for 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 offers a robust variety of programs designed for personal growth and skill development and addresses 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 serves more than 17,000 students annually 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 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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