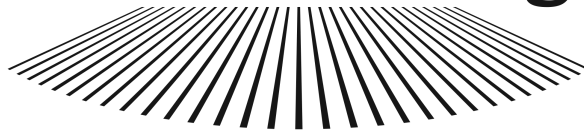


TheWesternStage



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IMAGINARY

A New Musical

Book & Lyrics by TIMOTHY KNAPMAN

Music & Lyrics by STUART MATTHEW PRICE

“With a cast of actors ages 12 to adult, *IMAGINARY* is an exciting new musical from “across the pond” in the spirit of *MATILDA* and *BILLY ELLIOTT*.”

THE STORY:

Growing up is hard to do, even across the pond. This new family musical is a funny and inspiring look into the captivating realm of childhood. It’s a story so universal, it will resonate with theatergoers of any age. Sam, our 11-year-old protagonist, introduces us to his vivid world of carefree adventures that includes his only friend, Milo. Set in present-day England, Sam’s mother worries that Milo is holding Sam back from making new friends at a new school. Sam’s journey at school progresses with unexpected twists and turns, and he discovers secrets that threaten his friendship with Milo. In a world where school kids must outwit the adult anti-heroes of the hallways, the only limit is their imagination.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The National Youth Music Theatre (NYMT) is a British arts organization dedicated to training young theatre talent in the UK. NYMT is a pre-professional, preparatory company that offers young actors from ages 10-23 years old to exhibit their skills in London, England. They are responsible for commissioning and producing *Imaginary*, which premiered on August 9, 2017, at The Other Palace in the UK. It received high acclaim. The Broadway Training Center had a fantastic experience sharing this “imaginative and daring new musical to American audiences for the first time!”

THE AUTHORS:

Imaginary originates from the mind of **Timothy Knapman**, a renowned musical book writer, lyricist, playwright, and children’s author. He was educated at Oxford and went on to author more than 60 books including the best-selling *Dinosaurs in the Supermarket* and its sequels,

Mungo and the Picture Book Pirates and its sequels, *Time Now To Dream*, *Soon*, *Sir Dancealot*, *Dinosaurs Don't Have Bedtimes* and *Superhero Dad*, *Mum and Gran*. He continues to write and work in London. On a personal note, his hobbies include swashbuckling.

Stuart Matthew Price is the composer and co-lyricist for *Imaginary*. His talents also include acting, dancing, and producing. Price was considered a youth prodigy in musical theatre by winning the Stoll Moss Theatres Award for Most Promising Under 18 Writer in 1999 at 14 years of age. As his career developed, he's been featured in such productions as the critically acclaimed *Parade* at the Donmar Warehouse, *The Sound Of Music* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *Shrek The Musical* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane), and *The Rocky Horror Show* (European Tour). He currently lives and works in London, England.

Commissioned and produced by National Youth Music Theatre and first performed 9 August 2017 at The Other Palace, London. IMAGINARY is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036.

(www.theatricalrights.com)

Directed by: **Joe Niesen**

Co-Director and Choreographer: **Michele Colvin Rogers**

Musical Director: **Don Dally**

Stage Manager: **Zalissa Ré Johnson**

Costume design: **Hailey Eakle**

Hair & Makeup design by: **Maegan Roux**

Lighting design by: **Derek Duarte**

Props design: **River Navaille**

Scenic design by: **Roger Thompson**

Sound design by: **Dante Carballo**

CAST LIST

Anders Lindstrom - Sam

Victoria Jones - Milo

Maria-Elena Mejia-Contreras - Alice

Julian Thomas Brandt - Dexter/ Imaginary Friend/ Young Headmaster

Heidi Witten-Forsythe - Grace

Galilea Velazquez - Harvey/ Imaginary Friend

Mahala Wilde - Helen/ Imaginary Friend

Rebecca Serrano - Jess/ Brendette

Velvet Piini - Beth/ Imaginary Friend

Sean Aten - Marco/ Grunt

Anthony Howard - Liam/ Oogie

Jeff Hinderscheid - P. Jim/ Headmaster

Jamie Jones - Stoker/ Flick

Jona St. John - Tony/ Google
Marilyn Cruickshank - Tash/ Rammstein
Donna Federico - Big Brenda
Yarelle Ruelas - Brendette/ Big Kid
Jacqueline Aguilar-Madriral - Brendette/ Big Kid
Misha Martinez - Brendette/ Chutney
Anna Cybele Foraker - Frank/ Minister/ Big Kid
Jessica Riley - Townie/ Big Kid/ Imaginary Friend
Elliot Riley - Townie/ Big Kid/ Imaginary Friend

WHEN

August 5 - 26, 2023,

-Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30pm; and Sundays at 2:00pm

WHERE

The Mainstage Theater in the Hartnell College Performing Arts Center (Building K), 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, CA. 93901

TICKETING INFORMATION

Adult \$30; Seniors/Military/Teachers \$24; Students \$16 (Hartnell Students FREE); Youths (5-15 yrs) \$12; FLEX PASS: \$145 for 6 tickets.

Group tickets are available by contacting the TWS Box Office.

Online tickets and more information: westernstage.com/tickets or call **(831) 755-6816**.

TWS Box Office is open Wednesday-Saturday 5:00-8:00pm. and one hour before curtain time on matinee Sundays. Leave VM to get a 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

The Western Stage is not requiring COVID vaccine or proof of a negative test result at this time. Ticket holders are asked to not attend the event if they have recently tested positive for COVID-19, or have been recently exposed to COVID-19, or have COVID-19 like symptoms. This policy is subject to change based on an increased infection rate and/or Hartnell College policy updates.

Mask policy in The Studio Theatre: In order to keep our unmasked actors healthy, we are requiring all patrons to wear masks while in the Studio Theatre due to the close proximity of the audience to the actors.

MORE:

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 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.