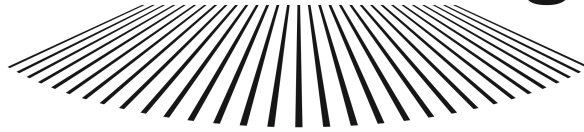


TheWesternStage



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Written by Elizabeth Santry

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A Sondheim Tribute Revue

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

An intimate tribute to Sondheim that delivers “an emotional throughline; in every aspect of his work.”

- Director, Dr. Joanne Gordon

THE STORY:

An exciting revue tailored especially for The Western Stage featuring the work of the incomparable Stephen Sondheim, widely acknowledged as the most innovative, most influential and most important composer and lyricist in modern Broadway history. For almost 70 years, he set an unsurpassed standard of brilliance and artistic integrity in musical theatre. Song selections from over 20 titles from the Sondheim songbook, including *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Assassins*, *Company*, *Follies*, *The Frogs*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music*, *Merrily We Roll Along*,,,, *Sunday in the Park with George* and *Sweeney Todd*

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Director, Joanne Gordon, is an internationally renowned Stephen Sondheim scholar. She befriended Sondheim while examining his work on an academic level at UCLA during her Ph.D. studies. From 1970, Gordon became devoted to the extensive and varied works of Stephen Sondheim. She understood immediately that Sondheim’s work took musical theatre into a different place. “It wasn’t escapist. It was innovative and exciting.” In her long-standing career, she has directed many of his extraordinary works worldwide, including the first Chinese language production of *West Side Story* in Beijing. Since Sondheim’s passing, Gordon has been in search of closure. The Western Stage’s production of Sondheim Tribute Revue is her opportunity to honor the “guiding light” of Stephen Sondheim’s life and work.

THE AUTHOR:

Stephen Sondheim is an American composer and lyricist regarded as a musical theatre legend. Sondheim was swept away with theater at a young age. He began his creative exploration as a lyricist but soon wrote both music and lyrics. His work spans over 6 decades and is still considered a genre unto itself. Throughout his career, Sondheim has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Tony, the Grammy, and a Pulitzer. He is credited by his contemporaries for his unmistakable influence on musical theater's development around the world. Broadway lost its prolific craftsman in 2021, but will surely continue to connect to his genius for many generations to come.

Directed by: **Joanne Gordon**

Musical Director: **Don Dally**

Stage Managers: **Zalissa Ré Johnson and Mireya Pamatz**

Accompanist: **Lucy Faridany**

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

Lighting & Scenic design by: **Derek Duarte**

Sound design by: **Dante Carballo**

CAST LIST (in alphabetical order)

Jacqueline Aguilar-Madrigal

John G. Bridges

Kathy Cusson

Jared W. Hussey

Jennifer Martin

Bri Slama

JR Walker

RJ Wayne

WHEN

June 3-25, 2023, Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE

The Mainstage Theater in 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); Youths (5-15 yrs) \$12; FLEX PASS: \$145 for 6 tickets. Group tickets available by contacting the TWS Box Office.

Online tickets and more information: westernstage.com 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 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 COVID-19 like symptoms and have **not** tested for COVID-19; have been recently exposed to COVID-19; or have recently tested positive for COVID-19. 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.

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.