



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS CONTACT:

Cheryl Worthy

Email: CWorthy@hartnell.edu

831 755-6816

Written by Kathy Cusson

SONGS FOR NOBODIES

Written by Joanna Murray-Smith

Orchestrations by Andra Velis Simon

An intimate, spellbinding one-woman tour de force celebrating the ordinary & uncelebrated women who share a fleeting but unforgettable moment with five of the greatest voices in musical history.

THE STORY:

Five legendary singers — Judy Garland, Billie Holiday, Patsy Cline, Maria Callas, and Édith Piaf — each encounter an ordinary woman whose life was changed forever in that singular moment. *Songs for Nobodies* weaves together stories of five “nobodies” who brushed against greatness, told through soaring vocal performances and vivid theatrical storytelling. Part concert, part play, this remarkable piece is a meditation on fame, memory, longing, and the enduring power of a voice.

BACKGROUND:

Songs for Nobodies was commissioned by Simon Phillips, then Artistic Director of the Melbourne Theatre Company, who asked acclaimed Australian playwright Joanna Murray-Smith to write a vehicle for the extraordinary vocal talents of singer and actress

Bernadette Robinson. The show had its world premiere at the Melbourne Theatre Company in 2010, and Robinson has performed it in sold-out seasons ever since. Following its European premiere at London's Wilton's Music Hall, it transferred to the West End's Ambassadors Theatre in 2019, where it was nominated for an Olivier Award. The show has since been performed by a range of exceptional solo performers worldwide and is celebrated as one of the most vocally demanding and theatrically rewarding one-woman shows in the contemporary repertoire.

THE AUTHORS:

Joanna Murray-Smith is one of Australia's most celebrated playwrights, with works performed in over thirty countries. Her plays include Bombshells, Ninety, Fury, and The Female of the Species. She is known for writing psychologically rich, emotionally layered work that centers on the interior lives of women. Songs for Nobodies is widely considered her most theatrically innovative work, blending musical performance with dramatic monologue in an entirely singular way.

Andra Velis Simon

ARTISTIC TEAM:

Directed by: **Ellen Brooks**

Music Direction: **Don Dally**

Costume/Hair & Makeup Design: **Christopher Metzger**

Lighting Design: **Derek Duarte**

Scenic Design: **Irena Hadzi-Dordevic**

Sound Design: **Dante Carballo**

Props: **Thomas Verdos**

Stage Management: **Lupita M. Rodriguez**

CAST:

Malinda DeRouen*

**Member of Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.*

Ms. DeRouen's appearance sponsored in part by James McLean

WHEN:

June 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, 2026

Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:

The Mainstage Theater on the Hartnell College Main Campus, 411 Central Avenue, Salinas, CA.

TICKETING INFORMATION:

Adult \$30; Seniors/Military/Teachers \$24; Hartnell Students FREE; Other Students \$16;

Youths (5-15) \$12; Hartnell Faculty/Staff \$15; Day-Of/Seat Available Student Rush \$5 ; Group tickets 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 5:00-8:00 p.m. and Performance Sundays from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Leave voicemail to get a callback within 24 hours.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

This event is wheelchair accessible. Contact the ticket office to purchase accessible seats. For additional accommodations, contact the ticket office at least five business days prior to the performance date.

CURRENT HEALTH INFORMATION

Ticket holders are asked to not attend if they are sneezing, coughing, have temperature or other symptoms, or have been recently exposed to the flu or 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 high-level artistic experiences. Led by its educational mission and a belief that strong arts experiences are important for building innovative, creative, and resilient communities, TWS provides opportunities for personal growth and skill development in a safe space where students and theatre enthusiasts engage in theatre production while working alongside theatre professionals. Through its annual production season, TWS provides strong pathways for artists throughout the continuum of a career in theatre and its related performing arts. TWS presents 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

Located in the heart of Salinas Valley, Hartnell Community College District is a leading institution serving over 13,000 students annually across our main campus in Salinas, the Alisal Campus, and education centers in King City, Castroville, and Soledad. HCCD is a Seal of Excelencia Certified institution and a recognized Hispanic-serving institution since 2000. We offer associate and bachelor's degrees and certificate programs to prepare students for successful transfer to four-year universities or immediate entry into the workforce. [Learn more](#) about our programs and initiatives.

###