

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater is excited to kick off their 2024 Season with...  
**“Hedwig and The Angry Inch”**  
A Rock Odyssey of Love, Fury, and Freedom Takes Center Stage  
at Chance Theater

**ANAHEIM, CA:** Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, is thrilled to kick off its 2024 Season with the groundbreaking Tony Award-winning musical, **“Hedwig and the Angry Inch”**, with book by John Cameron Mitchell and music & lyrics by Stephen Trask. With direction by Matthew McCray (“Rent”) and music direction by Lex Leigh (“Rent”), **“Hedwig and The Angry Inch”** will begin previews January 26, 2024. This electrifying production will officially open on February 3 and captivate audiences until February 25, 2024 at the Bette Aitken Theater Arts Center on the Cripe Stage.

“The best rock musical ever” - *Rolling Stone*

“Furiously entertaining with a heartwarming message” - *New York Magazine*

“Dynamite! This frisky, raunchy fable of love, loss, fury and freedom thrives” - *Daily News*

**“Hedwig and The Angry Inch”** will kick off Chance Theater’s 26th Anniversary Season! This groundbreaking Tony and Obie Award-winning smash that took Broadway by storm tells the story of “internationally ignored song stylist” Hedwig Schmidt, a fourth-wall smashing East German rock ‘n’ roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a botched sex-change operation, which has left her with just “an angry inch.” This outrageous and unexpectedly hilarious story is dazzlingly performed by Hedwig (née Hansel) in the form of a rock gig/stand-up comedy routine backed by the hard-rocking band “The Angry Inch.” Using songs and monologues, Hedwig tells her story and her life’s search for “The Origin of Love.” It’s a rocking ride, funny, touching, and ultimately inspiring to anyone who has felt life gave them an inch when they deserved a mile.

For the iconic character Hedwig, John Cameron Mitchell drew inspiration from a German divorced U.S. Army wife he encountered in a Kansas City drag club during the 1990s. Infused with details from the woman's life, Hedwig's origins trace back to Mitchell and Stephen Trask's early performances of the show in punk clubs. Its narrative – a poignant exploration of identity, love, and self-discovery – resonated with audiences and critics immediately, gaining a cult following after debuting Off-Broadway in 1998. The success and passionate support of this daring musical paved the way for the 2001 cinematic adaptation of **"Hedwig and The Angry Inch,"** which was directed and starred Mitchell. The film would receive over 30 awards (including the GLAAD Media Award for "Outstanding Film - Limited Release") and be nominated for at least another 30 (including the Golden Globe for Mitchell's mesmerizing performance).

The 2014 Broadway "revival" of **"Hedwig and The Angry Inch"** (which had never actually appeared on Broadway before) was nominated for 8 Tony Awards and won 4, including Best Revival of a Musical and Best Leading Actor for star Neil Patrick Harris. The journey of "Hedwig" from a personal encounter to an award-winning film and Tony Award-winning Broadway sensation stands as a testament to the enduring impact of Mitchell and Trask's creative vision.

Joining McCray and Leigh on the design team are scenic designer **Bradley Kaye** ("Ride the Cyclone"), costume designer **Bradley Allen Lock** ("Ride the Cyclone"), lighting designer **Zach Moore** ("Rent"), sound designer **James Markoski** (Chance Debut), projection designer **Nick Santiago** ("The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time"), stage manager **Nicole Schlitt** ("Edges"), dialect coach **Glenda Morgan Brown** ("The Secret Garden, The Musical"), and dramaturg **Bruce Goodrich** ("Rent").

The cast of **"Hedwig and The Angry Inch"** features **Tom Avery** (Chance Debut) as Hedwig, **Laura Herskov** (Chance Debut) as Yitzhak, **Lex Leigh** ("Striking 12") as Skszp, **James Michael McHale** ("The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity," Chance Resident Artist) as Jacek, **Mazie Voss** (Chance Debut) as Krzyzhtof, and **Julia Smushkova** (Chance Debut) as Schlatko.

**Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield** are the Executive Producers for this production. **Bette & Wylie Aitken** are producers for the entire 2024 Season. **Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller** are the associate producers and **The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar** are this season's associate producers.

To schedule press interviews, arrange for press comps, request press photos, or for any additional information regarding this production, please contact Casey Long, the Chance's managing director, at (626) 523-7151 or [casey@chancetheater.com](mailto:casey@chancetheater.com).

---

## ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for “nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre.” The Chance recently won 14 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical (“Next to Normal”) and Outstanding Production of a Play (“Cry It Out”). Previously, Chance Theater won eight OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical (“Fun Home”), eight Ovation Awards, including four for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre), and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. The Anaheim City Council named Chance Theater “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim” in 2014, and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold and personal storytelling to promote dialogue and connection within the Southern California theatrical landscape, the Chance is committed to contributing to a more compassionate, connected and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, The Theatrical Producers League of Los Angeles, and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

---

## CALENDAR LISTING

### **WHAT: Hedwig and The Angry Inch**

This groundbreaking Obie-winning Off-Broadway smash that took Broadway by storm tells the story of “internationally ignored song stylist” Hedwig Schmidt, a fourth-wall smashing East German rock ‘n’ roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a botched sex-change operation, which has left her with just “an angry inch.” This outrageous and unexpectedly hilarious story is dazzlingly performed by Hedwig (née Hansel) in the form of a rock gig/stand-up comedy routine backed by the hard-rocking band “The Angry Inch.” Using songs and monologues, Hedwig tells her story and her life’s search for “The Origin of Love.” It’s a rocking ride, funny, touching, and ultimately inspiring to anyone who has felt life gave them an inch when they deserved a mile.

*NOTE: This show contains mature subject matter, strong language, and other potentially triggering content.*

**WHEN:**

**Previews:** January 26 to February 2, 2024; Fridays and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m.

**Performances:** February 3 - 25, 2024; Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. & 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

**REVIEWERS AND OTHER PRESS are encouraged to come to Opening Night on Sat, February 3rd at 8 p.m.**

**RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 40 minutes, no intermission

**WHERE:** Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken Theater Arts Center on the Cripe Stage

5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

**TICKETS:** \$8-\$54

**MORE INFO:** [www.ChanceTheater.com](http://www.ChanceTheater.com) or call (888) 455-4212

###