

November 11, 2024

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For information regarding the 2025 season: [www.ChanceTheater.com/2025-season](http://www.ChanceTheater.com/2025-season)

**Chance Theater proudly announces a bold and inspiring**  
***2025 Season***  
**PREMIERES, GROUNDBREAKING MUSICALS, AND FAMILY FAVORITES**

**ANAHEIM, CA** – Chance Theater proudly announces its highly anticipated 2025 season, showcasing a compelling array of celebrated productions. The lineup features bold, groundbreaking musicals, regional premieres, a world premiere from our inaugural resident playwright, and beloved holiday and family classics. Each production reflects Chance Theater’s dedication to innovative storytelling and diverse perspectives, promising a season filled with unforgettable performances for the entire community.

“Our 2025 season offers something for everyone—from acclaimed musicals to powerful new voices,” said **Founding Executive Artistic Director Oánh Nguyễn**. “With shows that challenge, inspire, and celebrate, we’re excited to bring stories that resonate on a deeply personal level, whether through the heart-pounding energy of ***Tick, Tick... Boom!***, the poignant memories in ***Such Small Hands***, or the thought-provoking journey of ***What the Constitution Means to Me***. We can’t wait for audiences to experience this season and the connections each show will spark.”

The season kicks off with the electrifying musical ***Tick, Tick... BOOM!*** by **Jonathan Larson** with script consultation by **David Auburn**. This exhilarating, autobiographical journey dives into the dreams, doubts, and passions of a young composer on the brink of a breakthrough. Running from January 24th to February 23rd, 2025, on the Cripe Stage, this production is brought to life under the direction of **H. Adam Harris**, with music direction by **Lex Leigh** and choreography by **Niko Montelibano**.

Next, Chance Theater will present the world premiere of ***Such Small Hands*** by **2011 Resident Playwright Adam Szymkowicz**. This hilarious and poignant play about love, aging, and the small moments that make up a marriage and a life will run from February 28th to March 23rd, 2025, on the Fyda-Mar Stage. Directed by **Matthew McCray**.

Following that, Chance Theater will present the Orange County premiere of ***The Chinese Lady*** by **Lloyd Suh**. This historical drama tells the story of Afong Moy, the first Chinese woman to

come to America. The production will run on the Cripe Stage from May 16th to June 8th, 2025. Directed by **Producing Associate Shinshin Yuder Tsai**.

The summer will heat up with the regional premiere of *Spring Awakening*, a rock musical with music by **Duncan Sheik** and book and lyrics by **Steven Sater**, based on the play by **Frank Wedekind**. This powerful show explores the struggles, desires, and confusion of adolescence in a repressive society. This Tony Award-winning musical will run from July 11th to August 10th, 2025, on the Cripe Stage. Directed by **Associate Artistic Director Jocelyn A. Brown**, with music direction by **Resident Artist Robyn Manion** and choreography by **Mo Goodfellow**.

The fall season will feature the thought-provoking drama *What the Constitution Means to Me* by **Heidi Schreck**. This Pulitzer finalist is a deeply personal, thought-provoking play that reexamines the U.S. Constitution and its impact on women's lives across generations. The production will run from October 3rd to October 26th, 2025, on the Cripe Stage. Directed by **Katie Chidester**.

For the holiday season, Chance Theater brings back the beloved musical *Anne of Green Gables* with a book by **Joseph Robinette** and music and lyrics by **Evelyn D. Swenson**. This heartwarming story of friendship, family, and imagination is perfect for audiences of all ages. Join us from November 28 to December 21, 2025, on the Cripe Stage for a production filled with timeless charm.

Bringing even more holiday cheer, *Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas, The Musical* returns with a book by **Cara Lustik** and **Matthew Hardy**, music by **Randy Klein**, and lyrics by **Matthew Hardy**. This festive tale follows Nancy as she dreams of an extravagant Christmas—until an unexpected twist reveals the true spirit of the season. Bringing holiday cheer from December 5 to 21, 2025, on the Fyda-Mar Stage. Directed by **Resident Artist James McHale**.

Earlier in the year, Chance Theater is thrilled to welcome back *Fancy Nancy, The Musical*, book and lyrics by **Susan DiLallo**, with music and lyrics by **Danny Abosch**. This whimsical adventure follows Nancy and her friends as they explore the importance of family, friendship, and staying true to oneself—all with Nancy's signature flair! Catch this delightful show on the Cripe Stage from March 28 to April 13, 2025. Directed by **Resident Artist Laura Hathaway**.

The season “contains stories told by diverse voices that offer fresh perspectives on the history of our nation, stories that connect to ongoing societal issues at the forefront of American consciousness, and stories that encourage individuals to actively participate in shaping the future of democracy.” said **Literary Manager James Michael McHale**. “In short, it is a deeply personal season that will leave audiences as entertained as they are empowered.”

The 2025 Season is being produced by community leaders and Executive Season Producers **Bette & Wylie Aitken**, with the **Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar** as the Associate Season Producers.

Memberships for the 2025 season are now available. Enjoy everything Chance Theater offers for as low as \$15/month. For more information, visit [ChanceTheater.com/memberships](https://ChanceTheater.com/memberships). To

purchase tickets, visit [ChanceTheater.com](http://ChanceTheater.com) or call (888) 455-4212, Monday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

## 2025 Season

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### ***Tick, Tick... BOOM!***

*Book, Music & Lyrics by Jonathan Larson*

*Script Consultation by David Auburn,*

*Vocal Arrangements and Orchestrations by Stephen Oremus*

*tick, tick...BOOM! was originally produced off-Broadway in June 2001 by*

*Victoria Leacock, Robyn Goodman, Dede Harris, Lorie Cowen Levy, & Beth Smith*

January 24 - February 23, 2025

On the Cripe Stage

Get ready to experience the electrifying mind behind ***Rent!*** Before Jonathan Larson revolutionized Broadway, he was a young man struggling to make his mark. This autobiographical musical, set in 1990, is a raw, humorous, and heartfelt journey of a composer on the brink of turning 30—waiting tables and wondering if he'll ever write that soaring song that will change everything. His girlfriend wants to get married and move out of the city, and his best friend is making big bucks on Madison Avenue. Will he give up his dream and sell out just to keep the lights on? Will he lose the love of his life? Scored by music that redefined a genre, ***Tick, Tick... BOOM!*** takes you on the writer's journey that led to a Broadway blockbuster. It's a must-see for anyone who's ever chased a dream. If you loved ***Rent!***, this show will speak to your soul. Don't miss the chance to experience the genius of Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning composer Jonathan Larson in a whole new way!

Direction by H. Adam Harris, with music direction by Lex Leigh and choreography by Niko Montelibano

Executive Producers are Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield and Steven & Louise Koch.

Opening Night: Saturday, February 1, 2025

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### ***Such Small Hands***

*By Resident Playwright Adam Szymkowitz*

February 28 - March 23, 2025

On the Fyda-Mar Stage

\* *World Premiere*

Paul and Marie wake in the morning, Marie makes coffee, black, Paul asks for sugar, Marie says the sugar is out of reach, and they drink it black, Paul questions, "do we drink it black because the sugar is out of reach or because we like it that way?" And so begins the daily routine of this

long-married couple, filled with small quibbles, but an extraordinary amount of love, laughter, and memories. This hilarious and moving world premiere play about love, aging, selfishness, and selflessness from Chance Theater's Resident Playwright Adam Szymkowicz, is sure to resonate with audiences with its laughter and heart.

Direction by Matthew McCray.

Executive Producers are David & Judy Joss, with Associate Producers David & Danice Limberg.

Opening Night: Saturday, March 8, 2025

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***The Chinese Lady***

*By Lloyd Suh*

May 16 - June 8, 2025

On the Cripe Stage

*\* Regional Premiere*

In 1834, 16-year-old Afong Moy, the first Chinese woman to set foot in America, sailed into New York Harbor to be featured in a museum. She sees herself as a representative of China, here to educate and entertain. Or, in the eyes of the paying public, is she merely a mesmerizing display? Moving and sharply funny, this play follows the idealistic Moy as she travels through America as a living exhibit for decades. Over the course of her travels, Moy shares her impressions of a young country struggling to define itself. Inspired by a true story, Lloyd Suh's critically acclaimed play is a poetic, whimsical tale that paints a unique portrait of the United States as seen through the eyes of this remarkable young Chinese woman.

Direction by Producing Associate Shinshin Yuder Tsai.

Executive Producers are Gus & Mary Chabre, Sophie & Larry Cripe, Sally Ann Catering, and Samuel & Tammy Tang.

Opening Night: Saturday, May 24, 2025

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***Spring Awakening***

*Music by Duncan Sheik*

*Book & Lyrics by Steven Sater*

*Based on the play by Frank Wedekind*

July 11 - August 10, 2025

On the Cripe Stage

*\* Orange County Regional Premiere*

Based on Frank Wedekind's groundbreaking play, Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik's brilliant rock score and searingly emotional book bring the story of sexual awakening, youth revolt, and self-discovery into a new century. It's 1891, and the grown-ups hold all the cards. Headstrong Melchior and naive Wendla stumble into each other's arms, passionate and curious, while anxious Moritz struggles to live up to the stringent expectations of society. With only each other for guidance, this group of young men and women travel the fraught and rocky path of adolescence, discovering their bodies, their minds, and themselves along the way. Winner of eight Tony Awards, ***Spring Awakening*** features an electrifying fusion of morality, sexuality, and rock and roll, delivering a story that packs a powerful emotional punch.

Direction by Associate Artistic Director Jocelyn A. Brown, with music direction by Resident Artist Robyn Manion, and choreography by Mo Goodfellow

Executive Producers are Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield, Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller, and Laurie Smits Staude.

Opening Night: Saturday, July 19, 2025

SPRING AWAKENING is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MtiShows.com](http://www.MtiShows.com)

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### ***What the Constitution Means to Me***

*By Heidi Schreck*

October 3 - October 26, 2025

On the Cripe Stage

*\*Pulitzer Prize Finalist*

Heidi Schreck's timely, hilarious, and deeply felt play breathes new life into our country's most important document. Fifteen-year-old Heidi paid her college tuition by speaking in (and winning) debate competitions across the country. Now older, she resurrects her teenage self to tell the story of four generations of extraordinary women in her family whose lives were shaped by the Constitution. Nominated for two Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Schreck's boundary-breaking play reimagines our founding document and considers how it will shape the next generation of Americans.

Directed by Katie Chidester.

Executive Producers are Louise & Steven Koch, Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller, and Linda & Tod White.

Opening Night: Saturday, October 11, 2025

What the Constitution Means to Me” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.ConcordTheatricals.com](http://www.ConcordTheatricals.com)

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***Anne of Green Gables***

*Book by Joseph Robinette*

*Music & Lyrics by Evelyn D. Swensson*

November 28 - December 21, 2025

On the Cripe Stage

Back by popular demand, this musical adaptation of the classic novel brings Anne Shirley’s beloved story to life. Watch as the red-headed orphan girl makes her mark on Avonlea and captures the hearts of everyone she meets. A perfect holiday treat for the entire family, ***Anne of Green Gables*** is a heartwarming journey of friendship, growth, and imagination.

Executive Producer Sally Ann Catering

Opening Night: Saturday, December 6, 2025

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***Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas, The Musical***

*Book by Cara Lustik and Matthew Hardy*

*Music by Randy Klein*

*Lyrics by Matthew Hardy*

*Orchestrations and Vocal Arrangements by Randy Klein*

*Based on the popular book series by Jane O’Connor*

*and Illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser*

December 5 - 21, 2025

On the Fyda-Mar Stage

Back by popular demand, it's a holiday season filled with elegant wrapping paper, festive decorations, Christmas cookies with sprinkles—and, of course, the tree! After all, there is no such thing as too much tinsel. Ooh, la la! This year, Nancy is especially excited. After selling some of her old gowns and accessories, she’s finally able to buy a brand-new sparkly tree topper. She simply cannot wait to decorate the Christmas tree. But when things don’t go as planned, can Nancy still make Christmas as splendiferous as she dreamed?

Executive Producer Robert Berman

Opening Night: Sunday, December 7, 2025

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## ***Fancy Nancy, The Musical***

*Book & Lyrics by Susan DiLallo*

*Music by Danny Abosch*

*Based on the popular “Fancy Nancy” books*

*by Jane O’Connor and illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser*

March 28 - April 13, 2025

On the Cripe Stage

Making a triumphant return to the Chance, Nancy is back for another delightful adventure! Bring the family and watch as Nancy and her friends-- Bree, Rhonda, Wanda, and Lionel-- prepare for their very first show, *Deep Sea Dances*. Nancy is absolutely certain (that’s fancy for 100% sure) that she and Bree will be chosen as mermaids. But when another girl lands the coveted mermaid role, Nancy is stuck playing a dull, dreary tree. Can she bring her signature fancy flair to the role, even if it’s not the one she had in mind?

Executive Producer Robert Berman

Opening Night: Sunday, March 30, 2025

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### **TICKETS**

Season tickets for the 2025 season are available now. Individual show tickets go on sale starting December 2024. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [ChanceTheater.com](http://ChanceTheater.com) or call (888) 455-4212.

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### **ABOUT CHANCE THEATER**

As one of Southern California’s leading ensemble-driven theater companies, Chance Theater is proud to have 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 has earned 31 OCTG Theatre Awards, including Outstanding Production of a Musical for ***Next to Normal*** and ***Fun Home***, and Outstanding Production of a Play for ***Matinicus: The Story Of Abigail Burgess*** and ***Cry It Out***, as well as 6 Orange Curtain Review Awards, with Best Musical for ***Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street***. The theater’s achievements also include eight Ovation Awards (four for Best Production of a Musical - Intimate Theatre) and four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. In 2014, the Anaheim City Council designated Chance Theater as “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim,” and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as an “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold, personal storytelling to foster dialogue and connection in Southern California, the Chance remains committed to building a more compassionate, connected, and creative community. As a member of Theatre Communications Group, Theatre Producers of Southern California, OC Theatre Guild, and ArtsOC, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.