

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater proudly presents the return of
Anne of Green Gables

**This musical adaptation of the highly popular and timeless novel
will be this year's Chance Holiday Literature Series production**

October 29, 2019... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater is pleased to remount its popular production of the heartwarming musical adaptation of the classic novel ... ***Anne of Green Gables***. Book by Joseph Robinette, music and lyrics by Evelyn D. Swenson, directed by Casey Long and music direction by Bill Strongin. ***Anne of Green Gables* will preview from November 29 through December 3, regular performances will begin December 4 and continue through December 29 on the Cripe Stage at Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center.**

Generations of readers have adored the best-selling novel ***Anne of Green Gables***, and now the musical adaptation of the beloved book hits the stage at Chance Theater. The Cuthberts expect to adopt a boy, but receive, instead, a red-haired, wide-eyed orphan girl. Though clever young Anne Shirley has a penchant for getting into trouble, she works her way into the hearts of her adoptive parents as well as the residents of rural Prince Edward Island. It's a heartwarming story for the whole family.

"Reminds us that any season, not just this Christmas one, is the season for a compelling story of courage and inspiration, a heroine with which we can identify and for whom we can root, a good ensemble effort, and a simple, effective stage." -- *Huffington Post*

"family-friendly staging emphasizes the humor and, especially, the heart" – *Orange County Register*

This will be the fifth time that Chance Theater has produced ***Anne of Green Gables*** as part of its Holiday Literature Series (which also includes *Little Women – The Broadway Musical*, *The Secret Garden: The Musical*, and *Jane Austen's Emma, The Musical*), including a limited engagement at the Heritage Forum in Anaheim as part of the 100th Anniversary of the publishing of Lucy Maud Montgomery's first book in the Anne Shirley saga. Chance founding artist Casey Long has directed each production.

"Every time I approach this show, I'm surprised by how quickly I find myself taken away by the story and charmed by its characters," said Long. "There's a reason that the story of Anne Shirley coming to town of Avonlea has resonated for over a century, and my cast and crew feel a very strong obligation to staying true to the story that people fell in love with growing up, while also exploring an interesting theatrical approach that brings more focus to the story of Avonlea

as a whole. I want to reassure the legions of Anne's fans that all their favorite moments will be in the show, and this cast is going to light up the stage with the true spirit of the people of Anne Shirley's Avonlea."

The production team for *Anne of Green Gables* includes Long, as well as associate director **Miguel Cardenas**, music director **Kyle Short**, production designer **Masako Tobaru**, costume designer **Erika C. Miller**, stage manager **Bebe Herrera**, and rehearsal stage manager **Jordan Jones**.

The cast of *Anne of Green Gables* includes returning cast members **Marina Coffee** as Marilla, **William Crisp** as Matthew Cuthbert, **Sherry Domerego** as Rachel Lynde, and **James Gittelson** in a variety of male roles. Joining the cast this year are returning Chance artists **Emily Abeles** (*A Chorus Line*), **David Šášík** (*Dogfight*), and **Lily Bryson** (*James and The Giant Peach*), as well as **May Valenciano**, **Darla Jacobs**, **Owen Di Sciuillo**, **Caleb Smith**, **Carolina J. Flores**, **Gracie Bates**, **Samantha Bussard**, and music director **Kyle Short** (who will play various male roles as part of the theatrical storytelling) who all make their Chance debut with this production.

MEET THE TEAM

Joseph Robinette (Book) is a Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk Award nominee for the libretto of the acclaimed *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. He is the author or co-author of 55 published plays and musicals. His works have been produced at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, The Theater at Madison Square Garden and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle, the Goodman Theatre in Chicago, the BBC in Britain, in all 50 states and in 21 foreign countries. Twelve of his works have been translated into foreign languages, and another five have been anthologized. Robinette collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and he wrote the musical version with Charles Strouse (*Annie and Bye, Bye, Birdie*). Other dramatizations include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Anne of Green Gables* and Debbie Macomber's *A Gift to Last* and *The Inn at Rose Harbor*. He is the recipient of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education's Distinguished Play Award for *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and the Children's Theatre Foundation of America medallion for his "body of dramatic works for family audiences in the United States and beyond."

Evelyn D. Swensson (Music & Lyrics) has conducted over 80 productions-30 for OperaDelaware at Wilmington's Grand Opera House. As Director of OD's Family Theater, she has commissioned and conducted many new works including *The Boy Who Grew Too Fast* by Gian Carlo Menotti, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Libby Larsen, and *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Harnick/Black/Juster. Her career as a composer began in 1993 with *The Enormous Egg* (Butterworth) for which she wrote the play, lyrics and music, followed by three with Joseph Robinette: *The Adventures of Beatrix Potter* in 1994, *The Jungle Book* in 1995, and *Anne of Green Gables* in 1996. In 1997 came *The Wind in the Willows* (music by John Rutter, play by Swensson), in 1998, *The Homecoming* (play by Sergel), in 1999 *Redwall* Jacques), in 2000, *All Through the Night* (Mary Higgins Clark), 2001, *Trumpet of the Swan* (play by Robinette), and in 2002: *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* (Konigsburg). Evelyn is a graduate of Hollins U in VA, and WestChester U in PA which named her a distinguished alumna in '93. Her musicals, published by Dramatic Publishing, have been performed in 30 states in the US and in Canada and New Zealand.

Casey Long (Director) is proud to be a Founding Artist at Chance Theater. Casey is a graduate of the Leadership Anaheim program, Annenberg Foundation's Alchemy training, and the Fieldstone Foundation Leadership program. Prior Chance Theater directing credits include *Emma- The Musical*, *Anne of Green Gables* (at Chance Theater and Heritage Forum), *Little Women - The Broadway Musical* (at Chance and La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts), and *The Secret Garden, the Musical*. Chance acting credits include the OC premiere of Theresa Rebeck's *Seminar*, Samuel Hunter's *A Bright New Boise*, and Sarah Ruhl's *Passion Play*.

Bette & Wylie Aitken are the Season Producers and for the entire 2019 schedule.

To schedule press interviews, request photos, schedule press comps or for any additional information, please contact Casey Long at (714) 900-3284 or by e-mail at 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 has won six Ovation Awards, including two for Best Production of a Musical – Intimate Theater for its West Coast premiere of *Triassic Park – The Musical* and Southern California premiere of *Jerry Springer – The Opera*, as well as 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, Orange County Theatre Guild, and LA Stage Alliance, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: Anne of Green Gables

Generations of readers have adored the best-selling novel *Anne of Green Gables*, and now the musical adaptation of the beloved book will bring the story to life at Chance Theater. The Cuthberts expect to adopt a boy, but receive, instead, a red-haired, wide-eyed orphan girl. Though clever young Anne Shirley has a penchant for getting into trouble, she works her way into the hearts of her adoptive parents as well as the residents of rural Prince Edward Island. It’s a beautiful and heartwarming story for the whole family.

WHEN:

Preview Performances:

November 29 - December 6th, 2019

Friday at 3pm and 8pm; Saturday at 8pm; Sunday at 7pm

Regular Performances

December 7 - 29, 2019

Thursdays at 7:30pm; Fridays at 8pm; Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm; Sundays at 3pm

Special performances on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:30pm

REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS are encouraged to attend:

Opening Performance on Saturday, December 7th at 8pm

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

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

TICKETS: \$25.00 - \$49.00.

Call (888) 455-4212 or visit www.ChanceTheater.com.

Discounts available for children (ages 4-12), seniors, students and military.

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