

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors and Calendar Listings

Little Women - The Broadway Musical **has been canceled**

In response to the shutdown, the Chance has expanded its programming into a virtual format to ensure community and personal engagement during this time of crisis

October 16, 2020 ... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is sad to announce that the upcoming production of *Little Women - The Broadway Musical* has been officially canceled.

According to Founding Artist and Managing Director, Casey Long, "We delayed making this decision for as long as we could -- hoping against the odds that something might change to make the performances possible -- but it has never been a question for the staff of whether or not the health and well-being of our patrons, artists, and volunteers would be the top priority. After consulting the guidelines from CDC and the state government in regards to COVID-19, we have concluded that it is in our community's best interest to cancel this production and keep our doors closed for the time being."

This marks the sixth full production to be canceled by the Chance since the COVID-19 shutdown began on March 13th. In addition to these shows, the Chance also canceled their community fundraiser, four readings and workshops that were part of its OTR New Works Series, and numerous community events.

However, the Chance has expanded its efforts to remain engaged with the community during the shutdown. Live engagement events include **Chance Cyber Chats** and **Broadway Chance Style**, which allow for direct conversations between Chance artists and patrons. Also, multiple online series have started, including "**Some Good News O.C.**" (highlighting positivity in our community), "**Chance Encounters**" (which interviews past artists), and "**Stage FAQs**" (which answers frequently asked questions about the Chance and theater in general in short-form comedic videos).

Chance Theater's flagship education and outreach program, Speak Up has already moved two of its series -- **Teens Speak Up** and **Spectrum Speak Up** -- to a virtual format, and has just opened up its third series -- **Veterans Speak Up** -- for enrollment. It was a priority for the Chance to ensure these programs still happened, even without the benefit of meeting in-person. During this time of crisis, personal connection is more important than ever.

Due to the high loss of revenue from the canceled productions, fundraiser, and other events, Chance Theater has increased the fundraising goal for its "Make Them Hear You" fundraising campaign to \$340,000. The funds that are raised will help to maintain the facilities at the Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center until it can be safely reopened in accordance with CDC health guidelines. The success of this campaign will also help ensure that the Chance can make

facility upgrades and retain its staff, both of which are imperative to immediately resuming live theater once the shutdown has ended.

To ensure the success of the “Make Them Hear You” campaign, generous friends of the Chance have stepped forward to match every dollar donated until the goal is met. **The Chance wants to effusively thank Bette & Wylie Aitken, Susan Bowman & Freddie Greenfield, Sophie & Larry Cripe, Guy W. Marr, Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller, Laurie Smits Staude, and Linda & Tod White.**

For more details about - or to make a donation to - Chance Theater’s “Make Them Hear You” Campaign, visit www.ChanceTheater.com/hearme.

For any additional information, please contact Casey Long at 714-900-3284 or 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 seven Ovation Awards, including three for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre) for its regional premiere of *Lizzie, The Musical*, the 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.

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