

February 21, 2025

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FOR PHOTOS OF THE CAST: www.ChanceTheater.com/fancy2025

Chance Theater Celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Beloved Book with the Return of...

Fancy Nancy, The Musical!

A Splashy, Sparkly, and Totally Fancy Adventure for the Whole Family!

Anaheim, CA —Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, announces its 8th production of *Fancy Nancy, The Musical*, the stage adaptation of the best-selling book series by **Jane O’Connor** and illustrated by **Robin Preiss Glasser**. The 2012 play by **Susan DiLallo** (book and lyrics) and **Danny Abosch** (music) is suited for all age groups.

Fancy Nancy, The Musical follows Nancy and her friends Bree, Rhonda, Wanda, and Lionel as they prepare to perform in their very first show—*Deep Sea Dances*. Nancy is positive (that’s fancy for "100 percent sure") that she and Bree will be picked to be mermaids. But when another girl wins the coveted role, Nancy is stuck playing a dreary, dull tree. Can she bring her signature fancy flair to a role she doesn’t want?

Chance Theater first staged *Fancy Nancy: The Musical* in 2015, and it was an instant hit. Due to overwhelming audience demand, the show has returned several times, most recently in 2024.

When asked what excites her most about bringing the show back, director **Laura Hathaway** shared, “There are always young audience members who have never been to a live show before. Seeing Nancy and her friends and getting to meet them is something these audiences are so excited about. Plus, the show is a delight for young and adult audiences alike.”

Hathaway explains the show's enduring popularity: "At the end of the day, Nancy learns a lesson about being a kind and supportive friend. Whether you like sports or mermaids or eating snacks, being true to who you are is the fanciest thing you can do! You don't have to be the star to be fancy—you find fanciness inside of you and let it shine through what you do. I just love that."

After each performance, hang out with the cast, get their autographs, and take photos with Nancy and her friends! You can complete your fancy look with a boa and an extra-fancy "mermaid lagoon" slushie.

Joining Laura Hathaway on the design team for *Fancy Nancy: The Musical* are music director **Robyn Manion** ("Edges"), scenic designer **Megan Hill** ("A Charlie Brown Christmas"), production designer **Masako Tobaru** ("Striking 12"), associate costume designer **Gwen Sloan** ("Fancy Nancy"), and stage manager **Ben Green** ("The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time").

The cast of *Fancy Nancy: The Musical* will feature a mix of newcomers and returning actors – **Jillian Batt** ("Fancy Nancy") and **Kristin Cortines** ("Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas") share the role of Nancy; **Juliet Parker** ("Fancy Nancy") and **Zoe Godfrey-Grinage** ("Fancy Nancy") share the role of Bree; **Grace Buzzini** (Chance Debut) and **Maegan Hood** (Chance Debut) play Wanda; **Fiona Burrows** ("Fancy Nancy") and **Brooke Halliday** (Chance Debut) play Rhonda; **Matt Takahashi** ("A Charlie Brown Christmas") and **Elijah Douglas** ("Fancy Nancy") share the role of Lionel; and **Katelyn Spurgin** ("Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas") and **Haley Catherine** ("Fancy Nancy") will share the role of Mrs. Clancy.

Critics have praised *Fancy Nancy, The Musical*, as a sensational and wonderful show for the family.

"fills the theatre with laughter, catchy songs and life-long lessons." – *Broadway World*

"quite simply, splendiferous... The music is excellent, the lyrics are clever." – *Babies Gotta Have It*

SPECIAL EVENTS & ACCESSIBILITY

Announcing Fancy Nancy Birthday Parties: Celebrate Your Child's Special Day in the Fanciest Way Possible!

Now you can host a Fancy Nancy birthday party at Chance Theater! For just \$45 per person, your party includes a ticket to *Fancy Nancy, The Musical*, one hour in a private party room after the show, signed playbills, food and drinks, a special visit from Fancy Nancy, and more. For more information, visit

[ChanceTheater.com/fancy2025](https://www.chancetheater.com/fancy2025).

Pay-What-You-Can Performances: Friday, March 28, 2025 at 7:00 PM; and all performances at 4:30 PM on Saturday, March 29, Sunday, March 30, Saturday, April 5, Sunday, April 6, Saturday, April 12, and Sunday, April 13, 2025.

SaverTIX: Discounted tickets available for every performance

Relaxed Performances: Specially designed for audience members who may benefit from a more flexible theater environment. Adjustments are made to sound, lighting, and audience expectations to create an inclusive experience. Dates: Saturday, April 5 at 11:00 AM, and Saturday, April 12 at 1:30 PM.

These individuals are proud to support Such Small Hands at Chance Theater:

Executive Producer **Robert Berman**

2025 Executive Season Producer, **Bette & Wylie Aitken**, and Associate Season Producer, **The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar**.

We are deeply grateful for their extraordinary generosity and commitment.

Tickets for *Fancy Nancy, The Musical* are now on sale and can be purchased online at www.ChanceTheater.com/fancy2025 or by calling the box office at (888) 455-4212. Early booking is recommended due to expected high demand.

Reviewers and members of the press are welcome to attend any performance during the first week of the run.

For press inquiries, interviews, press comps, or photos, please contact Producing Associate Shinshin Tsai at (949) 346-2374 or Shinshin@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 won 31 OCTG Theatre Awards, including two for Outstanding Production of a Musical (“Next to Normal” and “Fun Home”) and one for Outstanding Production of a Play (“Cry It Out”). Previously, Chance Theater won 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: *Fancy Nancy, The Musical*

Making a triumphant return to the Chance, Fancy 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?

WHEN: March 28 – April 13, 2025

- Friday, Mar 28th at 7:00 PM
- Saturdays & Sundays at 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM, and 4:30 PM

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour with intermission

TICKETS: \$30-39, with discounts for educators, veterans, seniors, and students. Pay-What-You-Can preview performances and SaverTIX are also available to ensure that live theater is accessible to everyone.

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center on the Cripe Stage
5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center is located at 5522 E. La Palma Avenue in Anaheim Hills. Going west on La Palma from Imperial Highway, we are on the left in the front of the industrial park just past the In & Out. There is plenty of free convenient parking in front of the theater.

MORE INFO: www.ChanceTheater.com or call (888) 455-4212

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