

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Back by popular demand!

“Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas”

What could be fancier than a Fancy Nancy musical for Christmas?!

The Off-Broadway hit musical based on the best-selling book series is back at the Chance!

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim’s official resident theater company, announces the encore presentation of “Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas,” the stage adaptation of the best-selling series of books by Jane O’Connor and illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser. Book by Cara Lustik & Matthew Hardy, Lyrics by Matthew Hardy, and Music by Randy Klein. Directed by James Michael McHale and with music direction by Jimmy Beall.

“Fancy Nancy: Splendiferous Christmas” follows Nancy and her presents with elegant wrapping paper, festive decorations, Christmas cookies with sprinkles – and who could forget 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 has enough money to buy a brand-new sparkly tree topper. She simply cannot wait to decorate the Christmas tree. But when things don’t turn out the way Nancy planned, does Christmas still stand a chance of being splendiferous?

“The hour long musical...has a dramatic tension....as well as a refreshing sound:...elements of swing well as contemporary pop... Everyone learns the true meaning of the holiday...but what makes

‘Splendiferous Christmas’ winning is that it dares to be a little naughty as well as nice.”

– *New York Times*

Joining McHale and Beall on the design team for “Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas” is costume designer **Christina Perez** (“Next to Normal”), scenic designer **Megan Hill** (“Fancy Nancy, The Musical,” Chance Theater Resident Artist), lighting and sound designer **Masako Tobaru** (“Striking 12,” Chance Theater Resident Artist), and stage manager **James Tran** (“Striking 12,” Chance Theater Resident Artist).

The two rotating casts for “Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas” will feature a mix of newcomers and returning actors – **Kristin Cortines** (Chance stage debut) and **Benni Ruby** (Chance stage debut) will play Nancy, **Katelyn Spurgin** (“She Loves Me”) and **Katie Canavan** (“The Eight: Reindeer Monologues”) play Mother; **Abel Miramontes** (“The Little Mermaid”) and **Matt Takahashi** (“The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity,” Chance Theater Resident Artist) play Father; **Shai Culver** (“A Charlie Brown Christmas”) and **Penny Devlin** (Chance stage debut) play Jojo; and **Robin Walton** (“Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium”) and **Richard Comeau** (“James and The Giant Peach”) will be Grandpa and Mrs. Devine.

The executive producer for “Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas” is Robert Berman. Bette & Wylie Aitken are producers for the entire 2023 Season and The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar are the 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.

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: Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas

Presents with elegant wrapping paper, festive decorations, Christmas cookies with sprinkles – and who could forget 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 has enough money to buy a brand-new sparkly tree topper. She simply cannot wait to decorate the Christmas tree. But when things don’t turn out the way Nancy planned, does Christmas still stand a chance of being splendiferous?

WHEN:

Previews: December 1-3, 2023; Friday 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., Sunday at 4 p.m.

Performances: December 3 - 23, 2023

Wed, Thu, Fri 7 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m.

REVIEWERS AND OTHER PRESS are encouraged to come to Opening Night on Sunday, December 3 at 6 p.m.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 15 minutes

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken Theater Arts Center on the Fyda-Mar Stage

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

TICKETS: \$24-\$30

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

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