

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers, and Calendar Listings

**Chance Theater is bringing fantabulous back with...**

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

**The wildly popular musical adaptation of the best-selling book series is back for the 7th time!**

**ANAHEIM, CA:** Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, announces its 7th production of "Fancy Nancy, The Musical" the stage adaptation of the best-selling series of books 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. When another girl wins the coveted role, Nancy is stuck playing a dreary, dull tree. Can Nancy bring fancy flair to her role, even though it isn't the one she wanted?

Chance Theater first staged "Fancy Nancy, The Musical" in May 2015. The show was an instant hit and audiences always clamored to have the show return... which it did three more times, most recently in October 2018. It was set to return in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down all live theatrical performances.

When asked what excited her most about bringing the show back after a 3-year hiatus, "Fancy Nancy" director Laura M. Hathaway said, "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."

This year's production brings back a classic configuration with a proscenium presentation.

When asked what is it about "Fancy Nancy, The Musical" that has made the show so popular, Hathaway said, "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."

Hang out with the cast at the end of each performance, get their autographs, and take photos with Nancy and her friends. You can even pick up a boa and an extra fancy "mermaid lagoon" slushie drink to complete your ensemble (that's fancy for clothes!)

Joining Laura Hathaway on the design team for "Fancy Nancy, The Musical" are music director Robyn Manion ("Edges"), costume designer Christina Perez ("Next to Normal"), scenic designer Megan Hill ("A Charlie Brown Christmas"), lighting designer Masako Tobaru ("Striking 12"), 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 ("Alice in Wonderland") and Kristin Cortines ("Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas") share the role of Nancy; Juliet Parker (Fancy Nancy) and Zoe Godfrey-Grinage (Chance Debut) share the role of Bree; Claire Manson (Chance Debut) and Alyssa Corella ("A Wrinkle In Time") plays Wanda; Fiona Burrows ("Fancy Nancy") and Cecily Dowd (Chance Debut) play Rhonda; Elijah Douglas ("Fancy Nancy") and Matt Takahashi ("A Charlie Brown Christmas") share the role of Lionel; and Katelyn Spurgin ("Fancy Nancy, Splendiferous Christmas") and Haley Catherine (Chance Debut) will share the role of Mrs. Clancy.

Bette & Wylie Aitken are producers for the entire 2024 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 Shinshin Tsai, Chance's Marketing Manager, at (909) 684 - 0202 or [Shinshin@chancetheater.com](mailto: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**

This TYA favorite returns to the Chance for the seventh time. Bring the family and watch as Fancy Nancy and her friends Bree, Rhonda, Wanda, and Lionel get ready 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. When another girl wins the coveted role of the mermaid, Nancy is stuck playing a dreary, dull tree. Can Nancy bring fancy flair to her role, even though it isn’t the one she wanted?

### **WHEN:**

**Previews:** May 24-26, 2024; Friday 7 p.m., Saturday at 4 p.m. & 6 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

**Performances:** May 24 - June 9, 2024

Fridays 7 p.m (only May 24), Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. & Sundays at 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m.

\*\*\*\*

**REVIEWERS AND OTHER PRESS are encouraged to come to Opening Night on Sunday, May 26 at 6 p.m.**

**RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 10 minutes

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

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

**TICKETS:** \$31-35

**MORE INFO:** [www.ChanceTheater.com](http://www.ChanceTheater.com) or call (888) 455-4212

###