

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Chance Theater presents
Striking 12

**A festive musical-concert hybrid inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's
The Little Match Girl, will wrap up Chance Theater's 23rd Anniversary Season**

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater, is excited to announce that the acclaimed holiday musical-concert, *Striking 12* will be the first of two holiday shows at Chance Theater this year (playing in repertory with *A Charlie Brown Christmas*). This inventive concert-with-a-story is directed by multiple Ovation Award-nominated Kari Hayter (*Parade*) and will be performing November 26 - December 19, 2021.

Striking 12 is a unique hybrid of riveting musical theater and an electrifying pop-rock concert. It tells the story of a grumpy, overworked New Yorker who has resolved to spend New Year's Eve alone when an incandescent figure arrives at their door with the promise to chase away the winter doldrums. *Striking 12* is a festive tale filled with wit, emotion, and musicianship, creating an anti-holiday musical celebration about rediscovering and reconnecting to the true spirit of the season. *The New York Times* called it "a cross between a rock concert and a holiday show for people who don't like holiday shows."

"*Striking 12* doesn't follow the traditional holiday narrative," says director Kari Hayter. "It combines the spark and energy of a live concert with the power of the imagination, and the intimacy that brings together the past and the present. It invites the audience to be a part of the magic of storytelling."

The indie pop-rock trio, Groovelily decided to take a break from constantly touring by composing a holiday show they could plop in one place for a while. They were joined by the effortlessly witty Rachel Sheinkin, who won a Tony Award for the book to *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and came up with an easy-going spin on Hans Christian Andersen's seven-paragraph-long children's story, *The Little Matchstick Girl*.

Striking 12 was developed at TheatreWorks, Palo Alto, California, and produced at The Old Globe in San Diego, California. Soon after, Groovelily found themselves performing at the Daryl Roth Theater (Off-Broadway) in 2006 doing an eight-week limited engagement and earning a Lucille Lortel nomination for Best Musical.

Joining Hayter on the design team are music director Lex Leigh (*Fun Home*), production designer Masako Tobaru (*Sweat*), costume designer Jojo Siu (Chance debut), projection designer James Tran (*Sweat*), and stage manager Cynthia C. Espinoza (*A Wrinkle In Time*). Starring in this production will be Allen Everman (Ovation nominee, *Parade*), Jacklyn Uweh (*Hairspray*), Jennifer Richardson (*Fun Home*), Laura Leo Kelly (*West Side Story*, co-produced by TACFA), and music director Lex Leigh (Chance acting debut).

Chance Theater's COVID-19 policy requires General Performance ticket holders (ages 12+) to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. Those without proof of being fully vaccinated -- must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours (3 days) prior to entering the theater. Masks are required at all times for all patrons. Ticket holders who do not comply with these policies will not be admitted. Get the most up to date information about Chance Theater's health and safety protocols at www.ChanceTheater.com/safety.

Chance Theater is thankful to our Executive Producers Linda & Tod White for their support of this production, as well as Bette & Wylie Aitken who are Producers of the entire 2021 Season. The Chance also wants to thank Associate Producers Sophie & Larry Cripe, Rachelle Menaker & Eddie Schuller, and Laurie Smits Staude, and 2021 Associate Season Producers, The Family of Mary Kay Fyda-Mar.

Any questions can be directed to (888) 455-4212, or by sending an email to info@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 the Ovation Award for Best Production of a Musical (Intimate Theatre) for the intimate

revival of *Fun Home*. Previously, Chance Theater 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, 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: *Striking 12*

Striking 12 is a unique hybrid of riveting musical theater and an electrifying pop-rock concert. It tells the story of a grumpy, overworked New Yorker who has resolved to spend New Year’s Eve alone when an incandescent figure arrives at their door with the promise to chase away the winter doldrums. *Striking 12* is a festive tale filled with wit, emotion, and musicianship, creating an anti-holiday musical celebration about rediscovering and reconnecting to the true spirit of the season. *The New York Times* called it “a cross between a rock concert and a holiday show for people who don’t like holiday shows.”

WHEN:

Previews: November 26 - December 3, 2021; Fri & Sat at 8 p.m., Sunday at 7 p.m.

Performances: December 4 - 19, 2021;

Wed & Thu at 7:30 p.m.; Fri at 8 p.m.; Sat at 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.; Sun at 3 p.m.

** Requires proof of full vaccination (ages 12+) or a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours (3 days) prior to entering the theater. Masks are required at all times.*

Vaccinated+ Performances: Sun, November 28 at 7 p.m.; Sun, December 5 at 3 p.m.; Fri, December 10 at 8 p.m.; Sat, December 11 at 3 p.m.; Thu, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Sat, December 18 at 8 p.m.

** Negative COVID tests will not be accepted for Vaccinated+ Performances. Masks are still required.*

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour, 30 minutes with no intermission

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

TICKETS: \$25-\$49

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

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

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