

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

Orange County premiere of *The Story of My Life*

The virtual musical production of this “beautiful tribute to true friendship” will kick off Chance Theater’s 23rd Anniversary Season on April 30th

ANAHEIM, CA: Chance Theater is excited to announce that the Orange County premiere of Neil Bertram and Brian Hill’s musical, *The Story of My Life* will be the first show in our 23rd Anniversary Season. The musical is directed by Matthew McCray (*The Other Place*), with music direction by Robyn Manion (*Ragtime*). The show will have scheduled virtual performances from April 30 - June 6, 2021.

This Drama Desk Award-nominated musical is a soaring tribute to the power of friendship and the people who change our lives forever. *The Story of My Life* is a profoundly funny and deeply moving musical about lifelong best friends, Thomas and Alvin. As time tests the bonds of friendship, best-selling author Thomas calls on the only resource he has — his stories of Alvin — to better understand the best friend that got away.

Although it only had a short run on Broadway in 2009, revival productions across the country have revealed time and again the enduring heart of this story:

“A gem! Ninety minutes of true magic” -- *Around the Town Chicago*

“It’ll renew your faith in humanity... The power and depth of friendship and love defines this wonderful musical with special tribute to the dynamics of the human spirit” – *Chicago Critic*

“A captivating 90 minutes of humor, heartbreak, and musical pleasures” – *Back Stage*

“Inspires us to reconnect with those who were part of the earliest chapters of our own life stories”

-- *Broadway World*

Following developmental readings at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, and Canadian Stage Company, *The Story of My Life* received its world premiere in Toronto at the Canadian Stage Company in 2006. It premiered on Broadway at the Booth Theatre in 2009 with direction by Richard Maltby, Jr. and starring Will Chase as Thomas Weaver and Malcolm Gets as Alvin Kelby. *The Story of My Life* went on to receive four Drama Desk Award nominations -- Outstanding Music (Neil Bartram), Outstanding Lyrics (Neil Bartram), Outstanding Book (Brian Hill), and Outstanding Musical. Since then, the intimate and heartfelt musical has played all over the United States and the rest of the world, including South Korea, Denmark, Belgium, and Austria.

Director Matthew McCray says the show is “a memory play about two wonderfully strange kids. The music has echoes of influence from Sondheim’s *Sunday in the Park with George* where music operates in a highly narrative manner and beautifully chronicles the highs, the lows, and key moments of lives well-lived and the value of a life-changing friendship.”

As for producing the show virtually, McCray said, “It’s like a whole new art form in 2021. We’ll be creating this musical through online Zoom rehearsals. Then, we’ll come together to create tracks of the actors’ voices that will work as performance tracks. These will be used for when we eventually land at the Chance Theater in a green screen environment where we will film the show. Once that’s done, we’ll go into a post-production process where we will edit the show into a film. The best part is that *The Story of My Life* is well-suited for this new artform, whether we’re exploring the playful childish imagination of a kid who’s exploring the power of the butterfly effect or we’re looking at the palpable final moments of two friends in conflict as they struggle with their own changing identities.”

In addition to McCray and music director Robyn Manion, the production team for *The Story of My Life* includes lighting designer Masako Tobaru, costume designer Erika C. Miller, sound designer/music editor Ryan Brodtkin, video editor James Tran, and stage manager Nicole Schlitt. The production will star Dillon Klena (*Parade*) as Thomas and Wyn Moreno (*Ragtime*) as Alvin.

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 just 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 and OC Theatre Guild, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: *The Story of My Life*

To kick off Season 23, the Chance presents the Orange County premiere of the Drama Desk Award-nominated musical that is a soaring tribute to the power of friendship and the people who change our lives forever. *The Story of My Life* is a profoundly funny and deeply moving musical about lifelong best friends, Thomas and Alvin. As time tests the bonds of friendship, best-selling author Thomas calls on the only resource he has — his stories of Alvin — to better understand the best friend that got away.

Please note: This show contains mild profanity and some mature themes.

VIRTUAL PRODUCTION

WHEN: April 30 - June 6, 2021, Fri/Sat 7:00 p.m. PDT; Sun 2:00 p.m. PDT

TICKETS: \$25-\$49

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

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