



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2018,

CABRILLO STAGE ANNOUNCES 37TH SUMMER FESTIVAL

Two-Show Season Begins June 28 and Runs Through August 19

Welcome to our 37th season of Tony award winning Broadway blockbusters presented in the beautiful Crocker Theater on the Cabrillo College campus!

Cabrillo Stage, the Broadway style musical theater company at Cabrillo College, announces its 37th Summer Festival beginning June 28 and playing through August 19. Audiences can expect another fun-filled summer of entertainment as Cabrillo Stage produces two diverse Broadway shows.

On the surface, **RENT** and **The Producers** seem as different as night and day. Rent is a Rock Opera, the natural culmination of the modern trend towards more dramatic themes and popular styles in musical theater that started in the late '60s. While Mel Brook's Producers is as funny and grandiose as any production from the Golden era of Musical Comedies. One is as stark in its tragic drama as the other is campy, in its farcical, silly, irreverence. But both are set in New York. Both won the Tony for Best Musical (1996 and 2001), and each was their author's first attempt at a Broadway Musical.

RENT plays June 28 - July 15, followed by **The Producers**, playing July 26 - August 19th, 2018. Both shows will be performed in the beautiful, state-of-the-art, Cabrillo Crocker Theater on the campus of Cabrillo College in Aptos, California.

In 1996, an original rock musical by a little-known composer opened on Broadway... and forever changed the landscape of American theatre. Jonathan Larson's **RENT** continues to speak loudly and defiantly to audiences across generations and all over the world. And now, this **Pulitzer Prize** and **Tony Award®-winning** masterpiece will come to Santa Cruz County. A re-imagining of Puccini's La Bohème, **RENT** follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams without selling out. With its inspiring message of joy and hope in the face of fear, this timeless celebration of friendship and creativity reminds us to measure our lives with the only thing that truly matters—love.

Dustin Leonard, Managing Director of Cabrillo Stage, is once again taking the reins Directing this powerful, uplifting and deeply moving piece. Long time Cabrillo Stage Musical Director **Michael J. McGushin**, joins the Directing team, breathing life into the non-stop music that propels **RENT**. **Branche Souza**, has returned from Los Angeles to choreograph the high energy movement that **RENT** requires. **Skip Epperson**, Scenic Designer, makes visual the raw and rough edges where **RENT** lives.

New comers to Cabrillo Stage are Bay Area performers **Joey Pisacane** (Roger) and **Sean Okuniewicz** (Mark). They lead a versatile, triple threat cast in this heartfelt & uplifting musical. This show also boasts veteran Cabrillo Stage performers, **Ronald Johnson Jr.** (Tom Collins), **Vinh Nguyen** (Angel), **Kiana Hamzehi** (Mimi) & **Sadie Rose** (Maureen).



Based on Mel Brooks' much loved Academy Award-winning movie, **The Producers** is a hilarious musical comedy that took Broadway by storm, winning a record-breaking **12 Tony Awards** and **3 Olivier Awards**. Impoverished by a string of flops, New York producer Max Bialystock recruits timid accountant Leo Bloom to help him pull off Broadway's greatest scam. They aim to produce the worst show ever and run away with millions, but they soon learn that show business can kick you in the teeth. The Producers may be the funniest Broadway musical of all time.

Lee Ann Payne, long time Bay Area theatrical Actress, Director and Choreographer, is directing and choreographing this non-stop, insanely funny musical. Artistic Director, **Jon Nordgren** will lead the Broadway-size orchestra as Musical Director. Take a break from the challenges of life and spend two hours enjoying a laugh-out-loud evening with **The Producers**.

Joining Cabrillo Stage for the first time are veteran Bay Area performers **Chris Reber** (Max Bialystock) and **Gary Schoenfeld** (Leopold "Leo" Bloom). They lead a stellar cast that includes returning triple threat **Jessica Whitemore** (Ulla). Resident Scenic Designer **Skip Epperson** and Technical Director **Marcel Tjioe** add their skills to create and mount this incredibly campy and over the top set design.

Online, in-person ticket sales and subscription packages are available now. Join the directors and cast of RENT immediately following the matinee performances on July 1 and The Producers, July 29, for a post-show discussion on the exciting process of putting together these diverse productions.

Cabrillo Stage offers subscription packages (two shows for as low as \$45 for children & \$70 for adults), individual and group ticket rates. Tickets are on-sale now.

WHAT: Cabrillo Stage 37th Summer Musical Festival

WHEN: Season runs June 28 to August 19, 2018

RENT plays Thursday - Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM, weekend matinees at 2 PM

The Producers plays Thursday - Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM, weekend matinees at 2PM.

WHERE: Cabrillo Crocker Theater, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos, CA.

TICKETS: 831-479-6154 or online at www.cabrillostage.com

INFORMATION: Press Photo's www.cabrillostage.com/press.html
Email: info@cabrillostage.com
Online www.cabrillostage.com
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About Cabrillo Stage

Cabrillo Stage is a non-profit, non-union summer stock musical theatre company at Cabrillo College, dedicated to presenting full scale Broadway musicals to the greater Monterey Bay Area. Producing a diversity of musical theatre works with the goal of educating as well as giving its audiences quality family entertainment, Cabrillo Stage is recognized as one of the major annual performing arts events in Santa Cruz County. Each summer since 1981, Cabrillo Stage has provided thousands of Santa Cruz county residents and visitors with unforgettable, critically acclaimed productions such as Cabaret, Swing!, Beauty & The Beast, The Wizard of Oz, Scrooge, The Last Five Years, Guys and Dolls, Little Shop of Horrors, West Side Story, and Man of La Mancha, to name a few, as well as regional premieres of new musicals such as Honk! Cabrillo Stage is noted for innovative sets, beautiful costumes, an outstanding pit orchestra and talented, professional performers. Cabrillo Stage is committed to providing a nurturing, supportive, artistic environment that allows all of its artisans, professional and nonprofessional, the opportunity to create musicals with high quality production values. Producing Artistic Director, Jon Nordgren.