



Subject: Feature Story Opportunity – World Premiere Musical to be Presented in Bay Area

I want to bring to your attention an exciting development on the Bay Area theatre landscape that will most definitely be of interest to your audience.

In April 2016, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre (PCRT) will be presenting the **World Premiere** of *Enchanted April, A New Musical Romance*. It has been work-shopped at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. with Broadway actors, and may well be headed to Broadway (we have received inquiries from producers in New York).

The PCRT production includes Broadway veteran David Bryant (the original Marius in the original Broadway production of *Les Miserables*). In addition, the creative team of this World Premiere production will be led by Broadway veteran and Bay Area Director/Actress/Choreographer Lois Grandi, Lois will direct this production and have the assistance of *Enchanted April* creators, Charles Leipart (Lyrics/Book) and Richard B. Evans (Music and Orchestrations) along with award winning Music Director, Pat Parr.

Enchanted April was commissioned by West Bay Opera (<http://wbopera.org>), the highly respected opera company based in Palo Alto, with General Director Maestro José Luis Moscovich. West Bay Opera is the second oldest opera company in the western United States.

Mr. Bryant* will be joined on stage in the PCRT production by several national touring and Bay Area professional actors, including Joy Sherratt*, Christopher Vettel*, and David Judson*. [*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers]

Since its inception in 2009, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre (a 501(c)3 non-profit organization) has had as its goal to bring professional musical theatre to the Tri-Valley area. A significant step along that path was PCRT's appointment in 2011 as the resident professional musical theatre company at Pleasanton's newly-renovated Firehouse Arts Center. PCRT has always distinguished itself via the quality of its shows, with the inclusion of casts composed of professional-level performers with a mix of Actor's Equity Association and/or long time experienced regional actors, singers and dancers as well as PCRT's production teams with some of the Bay Area's best-known technicians of theatre. Presenting the World Premiere of *Enchanted April*, with the company's hallmark of including Broadway veterans both on stage and on the creative team, is another major milestone for PCRT.

This is a very exciting development for both PCRT and the Bay Area theatre community. We hope you will help us celebrate this milestone by sharing a feature story with your audience about our production. To assist you with this, I have attached a Press Packet containing detailed information about *Enchanted April*, the upcoming PCRT production, and Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre. I would also be happy to arrange interviews with any of the actors or production/creative team associated with this **World Premiere** production.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or other information you may require and thank you in advance for your ongoing commitment to the Bay Area theatre community.

Sincerely,

Steve Wilner
PCRT
Board of Directors
www.pcrtproductions.org
swilners@cs.com
925-899-3848 (cell/text)



Press Packet

Press Contact: Steve Wilner – 925-899-3848 - swilners@cs.com

Broadway Veterans Join Bay Area Professional Actors for World Premiere Musical, *Enchanted April*, at Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre (PCRT) is thrilled to have Broadway veteran David Bryant* (the original Marius in the original Broadway production of *Les Miserables*) join the cast of the PCRT World Premiere of the new musical ***Enchanted April*** at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton. Mr. Bryant as “Frederick” will be joined on stage in the PCRT production by several national touring and Bay Area professional actors, including Joy Sherratt* as “Lottie”, Christopher Vettel* as “Mellresh”, and David Judson* as “Briggs”. In addition, the creative team of this World Premiere production will be led by Broadway veteran and Bay Area Director/Actress/Choreographer Lois Grandi (<http://www.loisgrandi.com/>). Lois will direct this production and have the assistance of *Enchanted April* creators, Charles Leipart (Lyrics/Book) and Richard B. Evans (Music and Orchestrations) (http://enchantedaprilmusical.com/home/Creators_Bios.html) - along with award winning Music Director, Pat Parr.

Enchanted April was commissioned by West Bay Opera (<http://wbopera.org>), the highly respected opera company based in Palo Alto, with General Director Maestro José Luis Moscovich. West Bay Opera is the second oldest opera company in the western United States.

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PCRT's World Premiere of *Enchanted April*

Since its inception in 2009, Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre has had as its goal to bring professional musical theatre to the Tri-Valley area. A significant step along that path was PCRT's appointment in 2011 as the resident professional musical theatre company at Pleasanton's newly-renovated Firehouse Arts Center. PCRT has always distinguished itself via the quality of its shows, with the inclusion of casts composed of professional-level performers with a mix of Actor's Equity Association and/or long time experienced regional actors, singers and dancers as well as PCRT's production teams with some of the Bay Area's best-known technicians of theatre. Presenting the World Premiere of ***Enchanted April***, with the Company's hallmark of including Broadway veterans both on stage and on the creative team, is another major milestone for PCRT.

In 2015, PCRT Co-Artistic Director David Judson met and worked with *Enchanted April* composer Richard Evans during a project in San Francisco on another new work by Evans. During that time, they began discussing other shows Richard had written. David was given the opportunity to review two full length musicals that Richard and his lyricist had written. He loved them both, but immediately fell in love with *Enchanted April*, which had been previously work-shopped at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. with Broadway actors and actresses. After this review, David had the chance to meet with Richard and his lyricist, Charles Leipart, to discuss producing the show with PCRT. They were thrilled at this opportunity. They had heard of PCRT's string of successes and thought it would be a perfect place to debut their show to audiences for the first time as a fully staged musical. Since then, Richard and Charles have been working on the show, including making some fine tuning adjustments to the show. For example, they added a new song at the beginning for our production (the Prologue).

After agreeing to produce the show, PCRT's founders met with Richard and Charles and started narrowing down a list of capable directors in the Bay Area. Broadway veteran Lois Grandi immediately came to mind. Beyond her impressive resume, she is an Italian American that fully understands the nuances, romance, and charm of this story. Initially, we actually thought she would be perfect in one of the roles of the show. However, after discussions with her, she convinced us she was the perfect director. This is a story told through women's eyes (and hearts) and so we thought it was critical to have a female guide this show. We couldn't think of anyone more suitable than the award winning and critically acclaimed Lois Grandi.

Auditions were then immediately scheduled, lasting over 3 months. We carefully looked across the nation for the right blend of talent that could very well help send the show to Broadway. In fact, we have already received inquiries from producers in New York. We were thrilled to book David Bryant in one of the leading roles. He will be originating the role of "Frederick" in our show. David was the original "Marius" in the original Broadway production of *Les Miserables*. We also feature other national touring professional actors, including Christopher Vettel (national tours of *Annie* and *Sunset Boulevard*) and Joy Sherratt (national tours of *Grease*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*). Along with the four Actors Equity Association actors, PCRT's production will feature other regional professionals and a fully professional orchestra. The musical also includes a quartet that sings/narrates throughout the show. Two of these incredible performers are originally from Pleasanton: Josselyn O'Neil ("Angela") and Andrew Mondello ("Beppo").

Enchanted April, A New Musical Romance

Based on the beloved novel, *The Enchanted April* by Elizabeth von Arnim, the story and lively musical score of Leipart and Evans' musical reflect its setting in post-Victorian London and in Portofino, Italy – the Jazz Age and the 1920s – romantic, lyrical, jazzy. In the hands of Evans and Leipart, von Arnim's witty and insightful story and colorful characters, full of heart and humor – make for a fabulous new musical.

Synopsis:

It's a cold and rainy, post-war-London, February, 1922. In the *London Times*, a small classified ad appears:

"To those who appreciate Wisteria and Sunshine:

To let for the month of April - a medieval castle on the Italian Mediterranean shore."

"Haven't you ever seen things in a kind of vision before they really happen?"

"Me? No. Never."

"That's the way I see us both. In a vision - there in Italy! April in this medieval castle!"

Life and love are about to bloom for four London women: Rose - neglected by her husband and hiding a secret desire; Lottie - full of life and a mischievous streak; Lady Caroline - a stunningly beautiful but jaded debutante; and Mrs. Fisher - a widow who believes her glory days are all behind her. These four ladies find each other and the castle of their dreams for one magical month on the Mediterranean. They seek a much needed antidote from their London cares, and what they find on the Italian shore awakens them to a world of beauty, ardor, and the joys of living. Love and comedy ensue when their husbands and lovers descend on the ladies' heavenly retreat - where passions bloom in the Italian spring!

Workshops and Readings:

Industry Reading

Pearl Studios, New York City

Director Robert Pullen

Music Director Larry Yurman

Developmental Workshop

at Washington D.C.'s Arena Stage

presented by Adrienne Arsht

Director Robert Pullen

Co-Director/Choreographer Stephen Brotebeck

Music Director Luke Frazier

Industry Reading

Chelsea Studios, New York City

Director Annette Jolles

Music Director Larry Yurman

History:

The Enchanted April, the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim, has previously been the subject of two successful films and a stage play.

- *The Enchanted April* was first published in London in the early 1920s.
- Elizabeth von Arnim (1866-1941), a prolific and colorful Australian/English author, had achieved fame with her first novel *Elizabeth's German Garden*(1898). She wrote *The Enchanted April* while staying in a castello in Italy that provides its setting. Perched high above Portofino Harbor, this historic site still boasts magnificent views of the Mediterranean, surrounded by lush gardens and terraces, just as described in the book.
- Adapted as a B&W film in 1935 (directed by Harry Beaumont, starring Ann Harding).
- Remade as a 1992 film (directed by Mike Newell, starring Miranda Richardson, Polly Walker, Joan Plowright, Jim Broadbent, and Alfred Molina) that is very popular on Netflix.
- Adapted as a stageplay by Matthew Barber in 2000. The Broadway production starred Jayne Atkinson, Molly Ringwald, and Elizabeth Ashley, and garnered a Tony Nomination as Best Play.
- Now re-imagined as *A New Musical Romance* by Richard B. Evans and Charles Leipart.

Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre celebrates human life by engaging audiences with Professional, Innovative and Inspiring theatre in the Firehouse Arts Center, Pleasanton. www.pcrtproductions.org

The Firehouse Arts Center is dedicated to inspiring passion through the arts. In the Firehouse Arts Center, we combine the sophistication of the culturally rich Bay Area arts landscape with the intimacy of our own hometown to achieve the ultimate representation the best features of our Pleasanton community. www.firehousearts.org

Enchanted April

World Premiere

FACT SHEET

WHO:

Book and Lyrics by Charles Leipart

Music by Richard B. Evans

Co-Artistic Directors: David Judson and Pat Parr

Directed by Lois Grandi

Music Direction by Pat Parr

Scenic Designs by Pat Brandon; Lighting Design by Mike Oesch; Costumes by Margaret daSilva

Starring: Joy Sherratt* as “Lottie”; Amy Franklin Leonards as “Rose”; Rachel Powers as “Caroline”; David Bryant* as “Frederick”; Christopher Vettel* as “Mellresh”; David Judson* as “Briggs”; Ellen Brooks as “Mrs. Fisher”; Ryan Henry as “Domenico”; Maria Mikheyenko as “Francesca”; Josselyn O’Neill as “Angela”; Andrew Mondello as “Beppo”.

[*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers]

WHAT: *Enchanted April* presented by Pacific Coast Repertory Theatre

WHERE: Firehouse Arts Center

4444 Railroad Avenue located in Pleasanton, CA 94566

WHEN: April 23, 2016 – May 8, 2016

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm

Sundays at 2pm

COST: \$18-\$39

Season Subscription also available

Discounts: 10% discount is available to groups of 10 or more, contact the box office directly

TICKETS: (925) 931-4848 or online at www.pcrproductions.org