

A WORLD PREMIERE EVENT

I'll Take Romance

*The
Musical*



 **EVOLUTION**
theatre company

Libretto by Edwin Sanchez
Music & Lyrics by Michael Leamon
Additional material by Paul Lockwood
Vocal Arrangements and Orchestrations by Michael Leamon
Adapted from the original stage play by Edwin Sanchez

OCTOBER 13 - 22

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THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

EVOLUTION THEATRE COMPANY

presents the world premiere of

I'LL TAKE ROMANCE The Musical

Libretto by Edwin Sanchez

Music & Lyrics by Michael Leamon

Additional material by Paul Lockwood

Vocal Arrangements and Orchestrations by Michael Leamon

Adapted from the original stage play by Edwin Sanchez

Directed by

David Bahgat

featuring

Matt Piper

Nico Carter

Katie Christine Wagner

Kara Marie Hancock

Tim Browning*

Justin LaBelle

Michael Gault

Lorelei Roeger

Ashton Brammer

Ben Hartwig

Dominic Catrone

Production Stage Manager

Jaclyn M. Benedict*

Music Director

Choreographer

Stephanie Stephens

Tonya Kraner

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Sydney Wagner

Brendan Michna

Producer and Executive Artistic Director

MARK PHILLIPS SCHWAMBERGER

* Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Evolution Theatre Company, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

CAST

in order of appearance

MATT PIPER.....	Angel
NICO CARTER.....	Dee
KATIE CHRISTINE WAGNER.....	Bree
KARA MARIE HANCOCK.....	Gretchen
LORELEI ROEGER.....	Ensemble
ASHTON BRAMMER.....	Ensemble
JUSTIN LABELLE.....	Seth
BEN HARTWIG.....	Ensemble
DOMINIC CATRONE.....	Ensemble
TIM BROWNING*	George
MICHAEL GAULT.....	Chi Chi

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	David Bahgat
Librettist - Playwright.....	Edwin Sanchez
Composer - Music & Lyrics.....	Michael Leamon
Additional Material.....	Paul Lockwood
Music Director.....	Stephanie Stephens
Choreographer.....	Tonya Kraner
Costume Designer.....	Sydney Wagner
Production Stage Manager.....	Jaclyn M. Benedict*
Abbey Theater Technical Director	Jim Ziolkowski
Sound & Video Engineer	David Crone
Lighting Designer.....	Brendan Michna
Box Office	Sue Rapier, Leslie Robinson, Lauren Wong, Lane Palmer
Marketing Communications, Graphics & Program.....	David Allen Vargo
Producer / Executive Artistic Director	Mark Phillips Schwamberger

The production runs two hours with one fifteen minute intermission.

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THE CAST

MATT PIPER [he/him/his] (Angel) is originally from the Ohio area and left to receive a BFA in Musical Theater at PACE University in NYC. Matt has come back to Ohio for a stint to learn and develop his professional career post college. His career credits include **THE MUSICAL OF MUSICALS**, **THE MUSICAL** (Willy), **THE DROWSY CHAPERONE** (Robert Martin) **HEART OF STONE** (Stoney) and others. If you'd like to find out more about Matt check out mattpiper.org. Matt is excited to bring Angel to life, enjoy!

NIKO CARTER (Dee) is thrilled to be involved in his first show with Evolution! Niko has a BFA in Acting/Directing and has performed in multiple states across the country. He wants to thank his friends and family for always keeping him going with their constant love and support. Recent Credits: **THE MUSIC MAN** (Marcellus), **SPRING AWAKENING** (Moritz/Fight Captain), and **WEST SIDE STORY** (Riff/Fight Captain).

Facebook: Niko Carter

Instagram: @kneecocarts

KATIE CHRISTINE WAGNER (Bree) is a senior Musical Theatre major at Otterbein University. Favorite credits include **SOMETHING ROTTEN!** (Bea Bottom), **GOD OF CARNAGE** (Annette Raleigh), and **DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID** (Ariel). Thanks to the entire cast and crew. Special thanks to Evan, Sydney, and Mom!

KARA MARIE HANCOCK (Gretchen) is excited to return to Evolution Theatre Co. to originate this hilarious role. Favorite credits include **COMPANY** (Amy), **CARRIE** (Norma), **JOSEPH...DREAMCOAT** (Narrator), **MATILDA** (Mrs. Wormwood), and **CABARET** (Fraulein Kost). By day she's a saleswoman, but pursues her passion outside of work (and sometimes outside of Ohio). She would love to thank her family, friends, and the Matt Farnsworth Vocal Studio. More at www.KaraHancock.com

LORELEI ROEGER (Ensemble) is a Senior at New Albany High School. Some of her favorite credits are **LES MISERABLES** (Cosette Understudy), **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ** (Brenda), and **SPRING AWAKENING** (ensemble). She was also nominated for the title of Best Leading Actress at the CAPA Marquee awards for her performance in **THE LITTLE MERMAID** (Scuttle). Lorelei is so excited to be a part of **I'LL TAKE ROMANCE** and would like to thank her family and friends for their support.

ASHTON BRAMMER (Ensemble) is from Ironton, Ohio, and a graduate of The Ohio State University with a BA in English and Theatre. Some of Ashton's favorite past roles include LTOB's **BONNIE & CLYDE** (Stella), Evolution's **CABARET** (Rosie), and Red Herring's **DREAM** (Puck). She would like to thank her friends, family, and her cat Calcifer their support, and in the words of Walt Disney, "All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."

JUSTIN LABELLE (Seth) is excited to be making his ETC debut! Previous shows include **CINDERLLA** (Christopher), **THE LITTLE MERMAID** (Scuttle), **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** (Gaston), **MAMMA MIA** (Sky), **RAGTIME** (Younger Brother), **LES MISERABLES** (Grantaire), and **BYE BYE BIRDIE** (Albert). Thanks to my wife Chaney for her UNWAVERING support of my love for theater!

THE CAST

BEN HARTWIG (Ensemble) a locally based Ohio actor/director is excited to be performing once again with Evolution Theatre Company. You might have seen him in **PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT** (Jimmy), **THE VIEW UPSTAIRS** (Freddy) and **FROM WHITE PLAINS** (John) with ETC. He has performed with: CATCO is Theatre, Weathervane Playhouse and Actors Theatre. His favorite roles include; **FOREVER PLAID** (Smudge), **PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE** (Chip) and **CHRISTMAS SCHOONER** (Rudy). He hopes you enjoy the show and special thanks to Mark and David for this opportunity. Much Love to his friends and family.

DOMINIC CATRONE (Ensemble) is a senior at New Albany High School. Some of his favorite stage credits include **THE LITTLE MERMAID** (Prince Eric), **LES MISERABLES** (Enjolras), and **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE** (Adrian/Himself). Dominic has also worked around Columbus in The Butterfly Guild's **CINDERELLA** (Ensemble), and with the Short North Stage in **SPRING AWAKENING** (Ensemble, Otto/Georg Cover). Dominic also enjoys interning with New Vision Dance Company and participating in voice competitions.

TIM BROWNING *(George) This is Tim's first production with Evolution Theatre. **THE CIVIL WAR**, w/Linda Eder (Alley) **TWELFTH NIGHT**, Chicago Shakespeare, **DRIFT** Merkin, **GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS** (Critic's Choice Best Actor Award, Best Performance The Other Paper). Michael **GOD OF CARNAGE**, King Arthur **SPAMALOT**, Macbeth **MACBETH**, John Silver **TREASURE ISLAND**, Direction: **THE WHIPPING MAN** (Theater Roundtable Best Production 2013) **SCAPIN** (NPT), **A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER**, **GALLATHEA**, and **ALEXANDER'S HOUSE** (Columbus Gay Men's Chorus). Tim trained with the Royal Shakespeare Company and The Ohio State University, learning how to teach American students using RSC rehearsal methods, and increasing the presence of Shakespeare's work in American classrooms. So much love for my wife Megan, Ruby and my big, amazing family!

MICHAEL GAULT(Chi Chi) is excited to be in his second Evolution Theatre production and first ever original musical. Some of his favorite local credits include Imagine's **RIDE THE CYCLONE** (Mischa Bachinsky), Evolution Theatre Company's **THE VIEW UPSTAIRS** (Patrick), and Columbus Theatre's **TUCK EVERLASTING** (Ensemble).



We extend our sincerest thanks to

ROBIN & PETER HERSHA

Our Presenting Sponsors

for the world premiere of **I'll Take Romance, The Musical**

I'll Take Romance

Scene & Song List

Act 1

Scene 1: Man About Town Club, New York City

I'm in Love
Shake it Up!

Angel
Female Ensemble

Scene 2: Sidekicks Gay Bar, Hell's Kitchen

What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
I'm Not Bitter, Thelma Ritter

Angel and Dee
Dee

Scene 3: A Swanky Gay Bar, Chelsea

This is What Money is For!

Gretchen and Bree

Scene 4: Swanky Gay Bar, Hours Later

A Helluva Guy

Angel and Dee

Scene 5: Chelsea Art Gallery Gala

Cat And Mouse

Instrumental

Scene 6: Street in Hell's Kitchen, Late at Night

Scene 7: George's Penthouse/Office, Midtown

Scene 8: Posh Department Store, Midtown

Why Wouldn't He?

Dee

Act 2

Scene 1: Press Conference, Lobby of Lanier Tower

He's an Angel

Chi Chi

Scene 2: George's Penthouse/Office, Midtown

I'll Take Romance

George

Scene 3: Correctional Center

The Simple Things

Seth

Scene 4: Hospice Kitchen, Lower East Side

Scene 5: Dee's Apartment, Hell's Kitchen

Scene 6: Swanky Gay Bar, Chelsea

Schizoozling Is In The Air
I Want More

Male Ensemble
Angel and Chi Chi

Scene 7: Dee's Apartment, Hell's Kitchen

Loving You

George and Dee

Scene 8: Gretchen's Sutton Place Penthouse

Scene 9: Swanky Gay Bar, Chelsea

Scene 10: Plaza Hotel Grand Hall

O Happy Day!
What Do I Need?
Finale Medley
I'll Take Romance

Gretchen, Bree, Angel, Ensemble
George
Full Company
Full Company

PRODUCTION TEAM

DAVID BAHGAT(Director) is thrilled to be making his directorial debut with Evolution Theatre Company, after appearing on stage in *WHO KILLED JOAN CRAWFORD?* (Jean Harlow). Favorite directing credits include: *MAMMA MIA!*, *DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*, *MY FAIR LADY*, *HEATHERS*, *CINDERELLA*, *RAGTIME*, and *LES MISERABLES*. As an actor, he has enjoyed roles in: *THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE* (Rexy), *MARY POPPINS* (Mr. Banks), *PREGNANCY PACT* (Justin), and the National Tour of *JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR* (Apostle). He serves as Creative Director for Butterfly Guild of Nationwide Children's Hospital, and is the Head of Theatre Performance at Fort Hayes Career Center. Mr. Bahgat received his BFA in Musical Theatre from Otterbein University, and his MFA in Performing Arts from Savannah College of Art and Design. Thanks to Mark, Jackie, Tonya, Stephanie, and this wonderful cast and crew!

JACLYN M. BENEDICT* (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be working with Evolution Theatre Company for the first time for the world premiere of *I'LL TAKE ROMANCE, THE MUSICAL*. Some of her favorite local credits include: *LES MISERABLES*, *MAMMA MIA!*, *CINDERELLA*, *HEATHERS*, and *WEST SIDE STORY*. Many thanks to David, Stephanie, Tonya, and the wonderful cast for all their incredible work!

SYDNEY WAGNER (Costume Designer), originally from Columbus, Ohio, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Case Western Reserve University. She spent four years working in CWRU's costume shop working in many different aspects of costumes, crafts, and design. After graduation, Sydney started Wagner Costume Collective alongside her mom, Dawn, and sister, Katie. Their company rents to numerous communities and high schools nationwide. Much love to my family and Anthony.

STEPHANIE STEPHENS (Music Director), originally from Bellefontaine, OH, is in her second career as a Royalty and Licensing Administrator at Beckenhorst Press after teaching for 35 years. She has worked both onstage and backstage at many local theaters, including Gallery Players, Columbus Children's Theater and Hilliard Arts Council. *HELLO DOLLY* (Dolly), *SOMETHING ROTTEN* (Music Director) and *SWEENEY TODD* (Music Director) are among her favorite shows. *I'LL TAKE ROMANCE* is her first show with Evolution Theater. Thanks to David for giving her this opportunity and much love to her partner, Bruce.

TONYA KRANER (Choreographer) has worked professionally choreographing and teaching dance in Ohio, Florida, and NYC. She has received awards from Theatre Roundtable and Broadway World. Credits, some upcoming include: *CABARET* (Evolution), *HELLO DOLLY!*, *MARY POPPINS*, *BARE: A POP OPERA* (WCT), *GODSPELL* (LTOB), *SECRET GARDEN* and *SOMETHING ROTTEN* (Gallery Players), *TICK, TICK, BOOM!* (Curtain Players), and *ONCE UPON A MATTRESS* (Weathervane Playhouse). Much love & gratitude to family and everyone involved with ITR!

BRENDEN MICHNA(Lighting Designer) has been active in Theatre for the past 30 years. In that time he's been an actor, playwright, director, camera man, sound designer, production manager, scenic designer, and he's even taken a few dance classes. That said in the past decade lighting design has been his primary focus and passion. Currently he's the Head Electrician for the Southern Theatre, as well as a freelance designer who's worked with nearly every theatre and production company in central Ohio.

THE COMPOSERS

EDWIN SANCHEZ (Playwright - Librettist) Playwright Edwin Sanchez's plays have been produced around the world as well as throughout the United States. His upcoming musical, I'll Take Romance will have its world premiere in Ohio later this year. His plays include Clean, Trafficking in Broken Hearts, Unmerciful Good Fortune and Diosa. Among his awards are the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, three New York Foundation for the Arts Playwriting/Screenwriting Fellowships, the Princess Grace Playwriting Fellowship, the Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award and the AT&T On Stage New Play Award. He is also the author of the novel, Diary of a Puerto Rican Demigod, which has been slated to be a podcast series in 2023. A resident of Connecticut he teaches playwriting at Wesleyan University.

MICHAEL LEAMON (Composer - Music & Lyrics) An Indianapolis native, Michael Leamon first composed as a teenager, accompanying revivals of silent films. He improvised his own scores for Butler University's silent film series and did it again after graduation. He first combined his passion for theater and music by interpolating his own material into local community theater, followed by dozens of shows in dinner theater and summer stock. He toured and did piano work for Yul Brynner's final run of The King and I. For Cincinnati Public Television he composed the music and directed a TV series of all 42 Dr. Seuss books, with politicians, news anchors, and Jerry Springer as his narrators. He played piano onstage in Cleveland for Playhouse Square's production of Forever Plaid, which ran 18 months. (Another Playhouse Square show, Forbidden Broadway, featured Abbey Theater's Joe Bishara.) Throughout, Leamon has been a constant, well-known performer at Cleveland's most upscale establishments. I'll Take Romance is his third musical.

PAUL LOCKWOOD (Co-Creator - Additional Material) Paul Lockwood has worked as an actor, writer, director, and producer for the past 44 years in the Chicago area, NYC, Pittsburgh and Columbus. He founded the first incarnation of ETC in January 2008 and is thrilled to see it blossom as a small professional theatre under the direction of his friend and colleague, Mark Phillips Schwamberger, who has led the company since October 2010. I'll Take Romance, The Musical has been a delightful adventure taken with Edwin, Michael and Mark. Congratulations and a big thank you to all involved.

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Joy Norris Clarinet/Tenor Saxophone

Rosemary Cipriani Violin

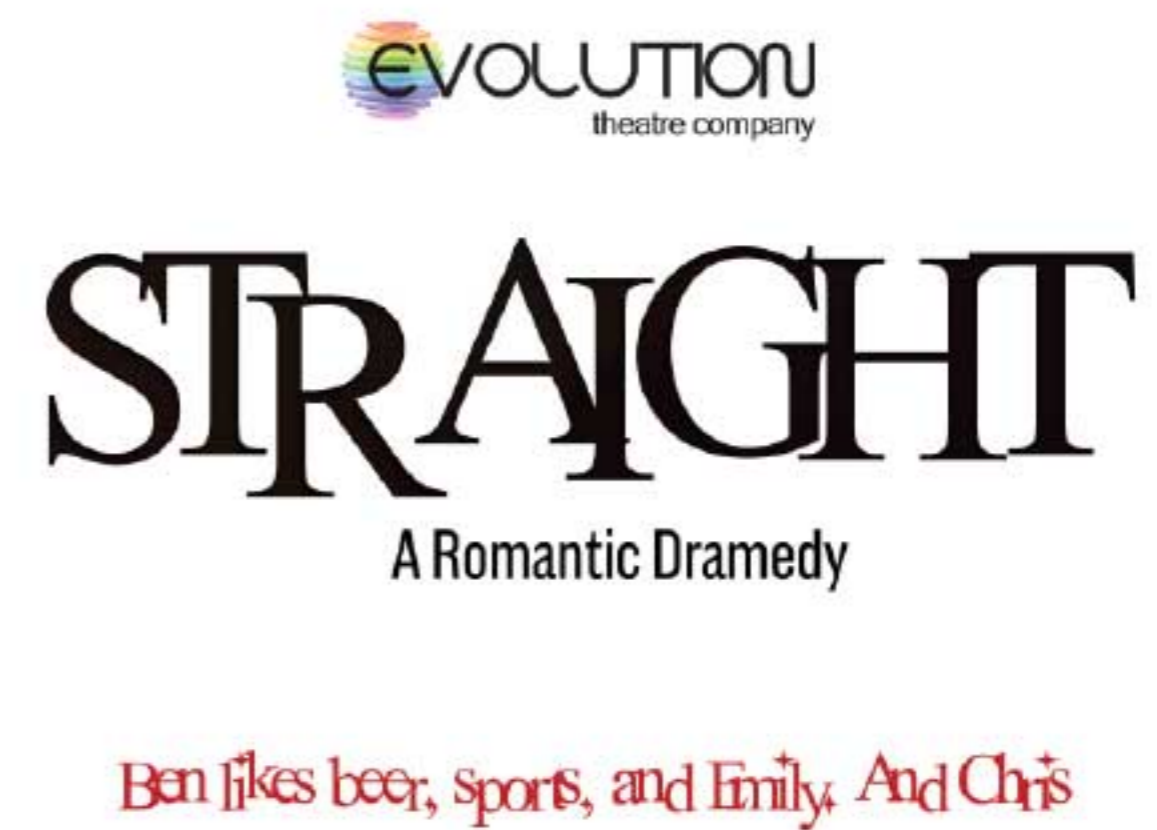
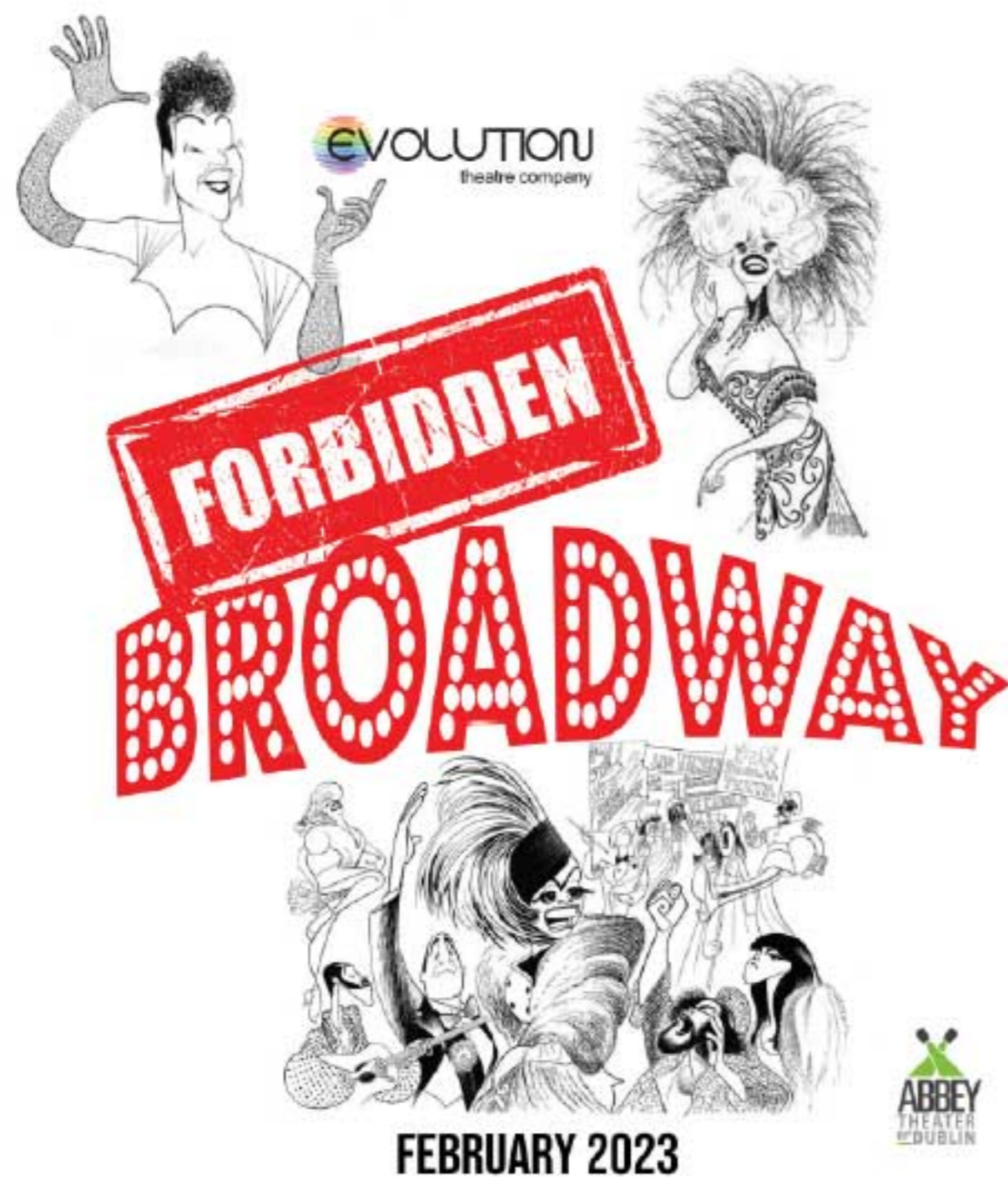
Bethany Dwinnell Violin

Dan Laney Bass

Sue Laney Synthesizer

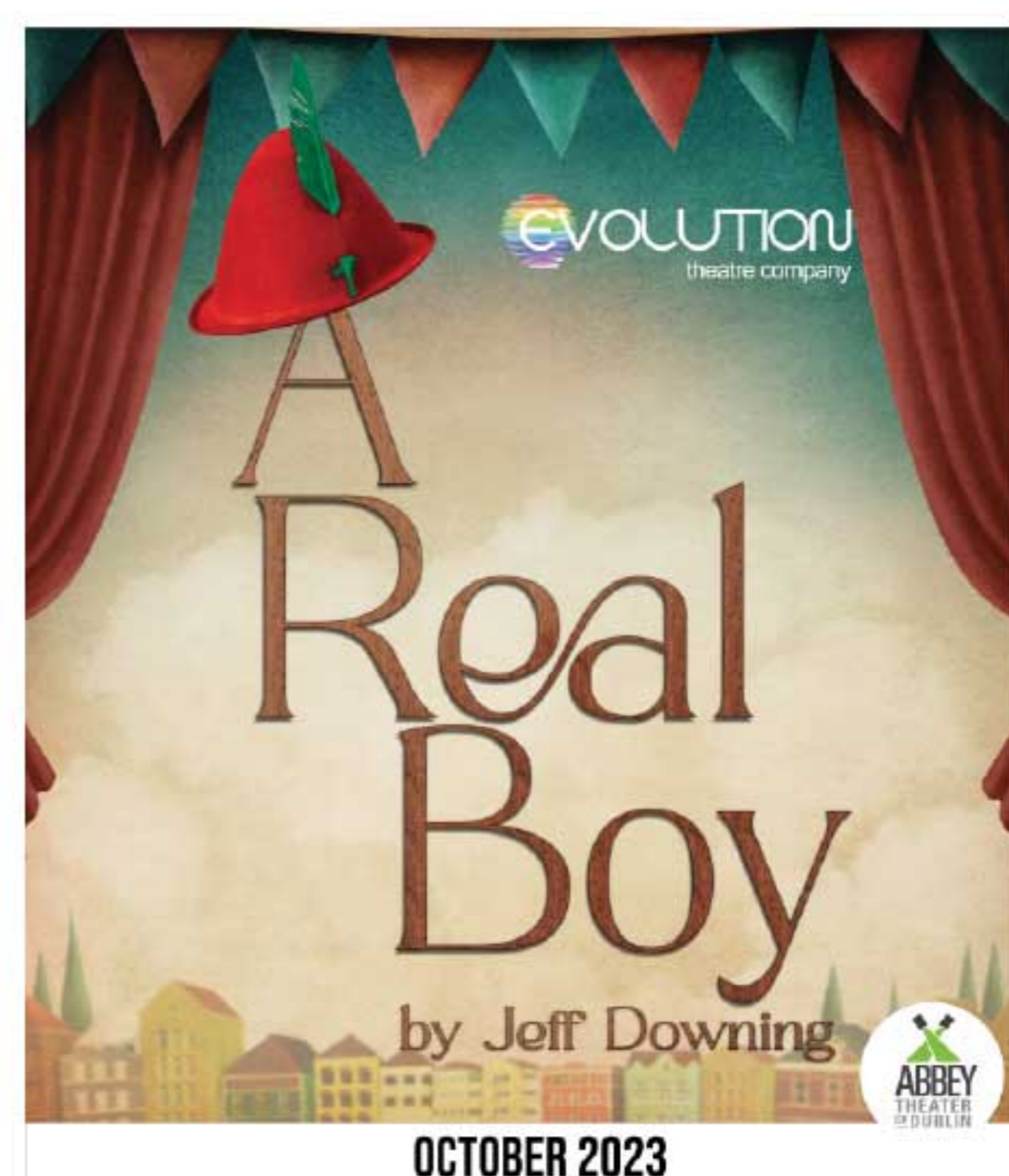
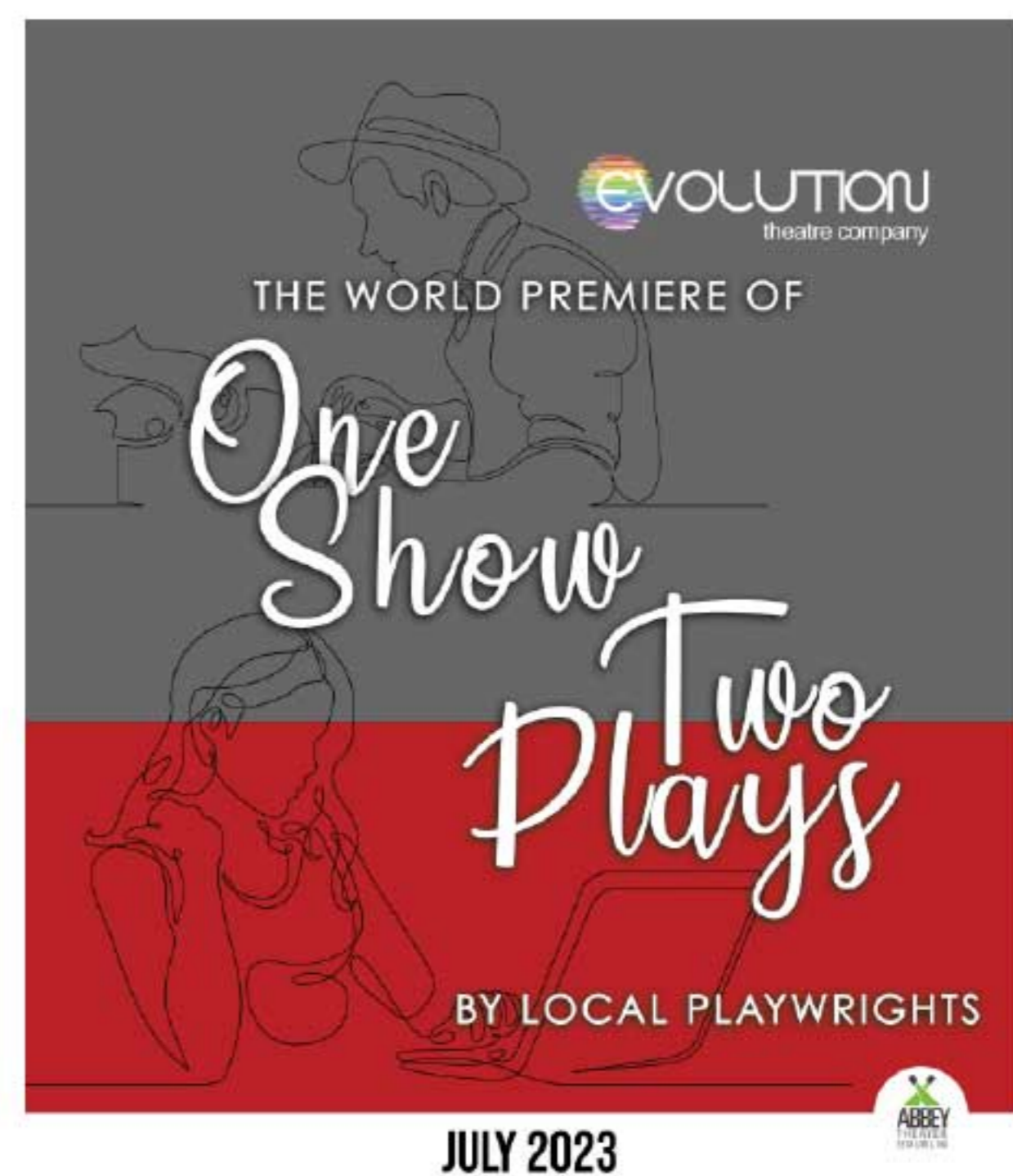
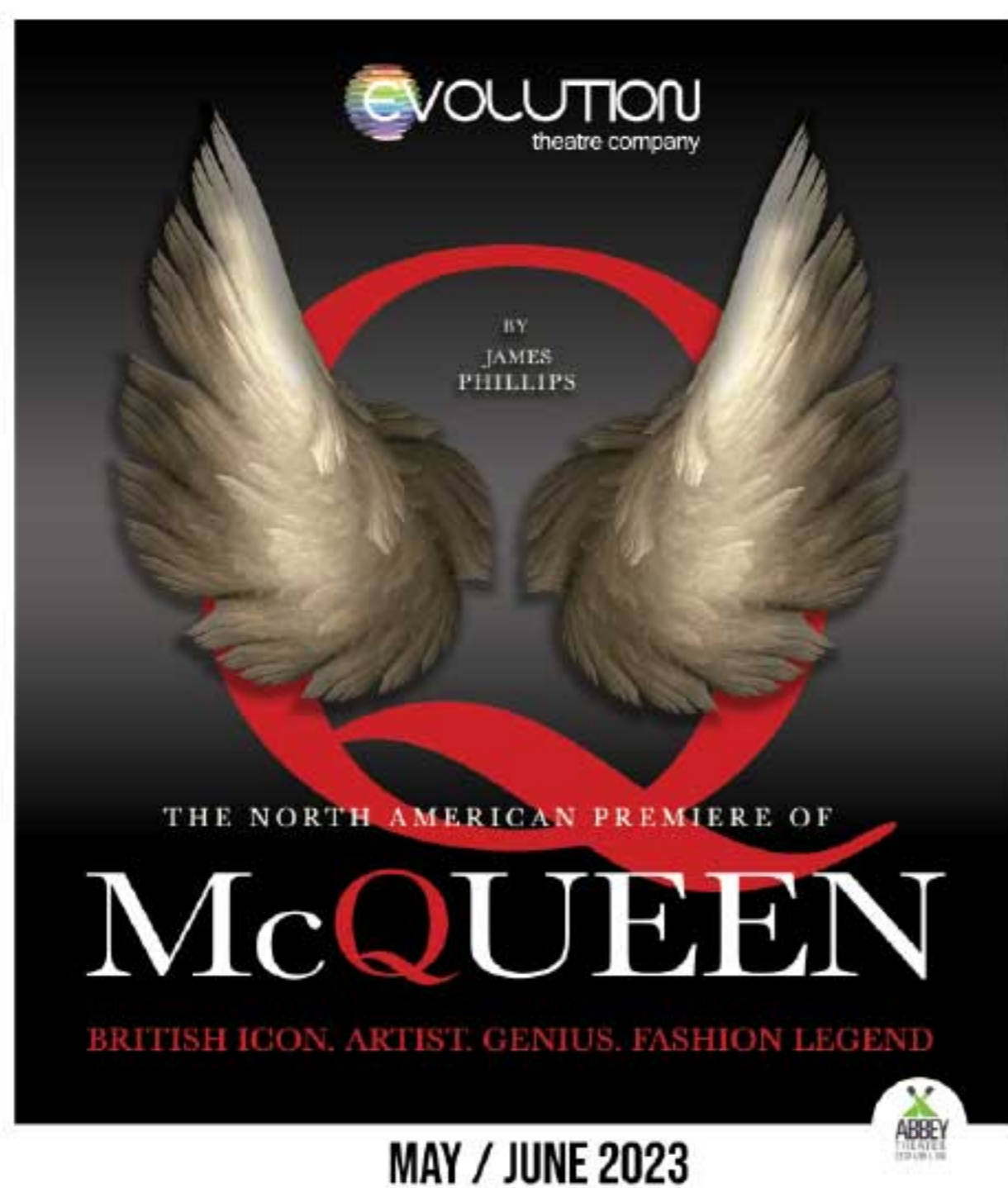
Aaron Dvorak Piano

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VARGO**



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