

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The World Premiere of an Arizona Story

The original musical Americano! debuts at The Phoenix Theatre Company

(Jan. 15, 2020 – PHOENIX) A brand-new musical based on the true story of an Arizona “Dreamer” will be the centerpiece of The Phoenix Theatre Company’s 100th-anniversary season.

Americano! is based on the life of Antonio Valdovinos, a graduate of Camelback High School in Phoenix who was brought from Mexico by his parents when he was two years old. He walked into a Marine Corps recruiting station on his 18th birthday to enlist, only to discover his parents hadn’t told him that he was an undocumented immigrant. But this Dreamer didn’t give up on serving the only country he had ever known—he did it in other powerful ways instead.

Americano! has been in development for the last five years and was a workshop production at the company’s Festival of New American Theatre.

Meanwhile, the conversation around immigration continues to be controversial. In 2012, the Obama Administration established a program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to give Dreamers temporary relief from deportation. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on the legality of DACA in June 2020. The fate of these Dreamers and the ideological battles around immigration are sure to be among the defining issues of the 2020 presidential campaign.

“It’s a very relevant topic, and nobody’s been writing about it in the world of musical theatre,” producing artistic director Michael Barnard says. “It’s an Arizona-grown story that casts a profoundly human light on what it means to be a Dreamer.”

Americano! features an original score by critically acclaimed singer-songwriter Carrie Rodriguez, whose album *Lola* was named one of NPR’s top 50 albums of the year, musical arrangements by Sergio Mendoza with Marco Rosano, and book by Michael Barnard and Jonathan Rosenberg. Barnard is also the musical’s director. Choreography is by Sergio Mejia. Former New York Times Phoenix Bureau Chief Fernanda Santos is the creative consultant. Jason Rose of Quixote Productions is co-producer and Tony Award winner Ken Davenport serves as executive producer.

For cast bios and headshots, click [here](#).

Tickets are on sale now and start at just \$32. To purchase by phone, call (602) 254-2151 or visit www.phoenixtheatre.com. *Americano!* runs January 29 through February 23, 2020.

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ABOUT THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY

The Phoenix Theatre Company is the largest professional regional theatre company in Arizona. As the first arts organization in Arizona and a founding member of the Central Arts District, The Phoenix Theatre Company is committed to advancing performing arts in the Valley with nearly 500 performances each year on multiple stages. Located at 1825 N. Central Ave in Phoenix, The Phoenix Theatre Company’s mission is to create exceptional experiences by using the arts to articulate messages that inspire hope and understanding. The Phoenix Theatre Company is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary. For more information, visit www.phoenixtheatre.com.