

## **The Phoenix Theatre Company Hosts ‘An Evening with Friends’** *Featuring national-touring and Broadway stars with Phoenix roots*

(PHOENIX – May 6, 2020) The Phoenix Theatre Company will host a virtual concert *An Evening with Friends* Monday, May 11 at 6:00pm PST. Celebrity guests include The Phoenix Theatre Company alumni Nick Cartell, Kathy Fitzgerald, James Gish, Brittney Mack and Sam Primack. Proceeds will support The Phoenix Theatre Company’s COVID-19 Relief Fund.

“Seeing our community members support each other during these uncertain times brings me hope for a brighter tomorrow.” Says Producing Artistic Director and Concert Host **Michael Barnard**. “While we can’t physically come together, *An Evening with Friends* will unite us behind our cause—to uplift, inspire and create hope in the face of our theatre’s, our community’s and our world’s biggest obstacle.”

Alumni will perform songs from Broadway favorites like *Les Misérables*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *West Side Story*. The guest lineup includes Broadway and national touring performers who started their careers on The Phoenix Theatre Company’s stage.

**Nick Cartell** played Marius in *Les Misérables* at The Phoenix Theatre Company and won an AriZoni Award for Best Actor as Fabrizio in *Light in the Piazza*. His Broadway credits include *Scandalous* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He recently finished the national tour *Les Misérables*, playing Jean Valjean. **Kathy Fitzgerald** acted at The Phoenix Theatre Company in the 80s and returns to the direct *Something Rotten!*. Her Broadway debut was in 1995 in the original production of *Swinging on a Star*. During her Broadway career, she was in the original production of *The Producers*, played Madame Worrible in *Wicked*, and created the role of Roz in *9 to 5*. **James Gish** recently joined national tours of *Les Misérables* as Feuilly and *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* as Gerry Goffin. He performed at The Phoenix Theatre Company as Tony in *West Side Story*, Jack Kelly in *Newsies*, and Bob Gaudio in *Jersey Boys*. **Brittney Mack**’s The Phoenix Theatre Company credits include *Memphis*, *Avenue Q*, *Ain’t Misbehavin’* and *Hairspray*. She recently made her Broadway debut as Anna of Cleves in *Six: The Musical*. **Sam Primack** joined the national tour of *Dear Evan Hansen* as Evan Hansen. His credits at The Phoenix Theatre Company include *A Christmas Story*, *Gypsy* and *Nine*.

The concert’s proceeds will support the theatre company’s COVID-19 Relief Fund, helping Arizona’s largest and oldest theatre company continue outreach programs like Partners That Heal and to employ 48 full-time staff while its stages are dark. The Phoenix Theatre Company closed its doors March 16 for the first time in its 100-year history to help arrest the spread of COVID-19.

“We remain unshaken in the belief that theatre brings out the best in us, inspiring hope and understanding.” Says Barnard. “And with the support of our steadfast patrons and a generous community, that mission will continue.”

The concert is Monday May 11 at 6:00pm PST streaming via StreamYard. Entry is \$10, the VIP package is \$25. A recording can be purchased for \$5. To get tickets, visit

[www.phoenixtheatre.com/AnEveningWithFriends](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/AnEveningWithFriends). To learn more about supporting The Phoenix Theatre Company, visit [tickets.phoenixtheatre.com/donate/contribute1](http://tickets.phoenixtheatre.com/donate/contribute1).

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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 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information, visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

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