

The Phoenix Theatre Company Opens Outdoor Venue with a Celebration!

Live theatre returns to Phoenix with uplifting Dionne Warwick tribute, featuring trio We3

(Oct. 22, 2020 – PHOENIX) The Phoenix Theatre Company kicks off its fall season Nov. 10 with a celebratory tribute to Dionne Warwick. Featuring the Phoenix-based trio We3, including Nicole Pesce, Renee Grant Patrick and Suzanne Lansford, along with special guests Mel Brown on bass, Greg Warner on drums, Joe Garcia on percussion, and vocalist Diana Lee, *Happy Birthday Dionne!* is a fun and uplifting show. The eclectic set list includes songs Warwick made famous like, “Do you Know the Way to San Jose,” “That’s What Friends are For,” and “What the World Needs Now,” plus many more surprises.

“Our community needs a reason to come together and celebrate, especially right now,” said Pesce. “I’ve played professionally for over 30 years and Phoenix is one of those places where audiences aren’t necessarily particular to one genre of music, they love variety. This show was put together with a Phoenix audience as the centerpiece.”

Happy Birthday Dionne! is The Phoenix Theatre Company’s first show on its new outdoor stage. Erected in the garden of the Central United Methodist Church located at 1875 N. Central Ave., a half block north of the theatre’s three-stage complex, shows will have high-production values and smaller casts. Performances will have the same level of intimacy patrons have come to expect from The Phoenix Theatre Company for the last 100 years.

“Dionne Warwick is one those timeless artists we all know and love,” added Patrick. “We curated this setlist out of affection and love for these songs. We’ll be sharing our personal connections to the music, and we hope audiences rediscover love for her music, too.”

Warwick is one of the most-charted female vocalists of all time, with 56 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 between 1962 and 1998. For the inaugural outdoor event at The Phoenix Theatre Company, We3 created an entire experience celebrating Warwick and the music she made great.

“There’s so much depth and meaning to these songs,” said Lansford. “I grew up listening to this music, yet when I began looking at the chords and lyrics, I found so many nuances I hadn’t noticed before. Revisiting them, they take on a whole new meaning.”

The Phoenix Theatre Company will follow CDC recommendations and protocol for the outdoor season including requiring face masks, access to hand sanitizer, temperature checks at the door and socially-distanced seating. Patrons are asked to be respectful and stay home if they aren’t feeling well.

Earlier this year, stages went dark for the first time in The Phoenix Theatre Company’s 100-year history to help arrest the spread of COVID-19. After nearly six months of planning, the theatre company is proud to announce the return of live theatre to the Valley.

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Outdoor programming continues through May 2021. Shows include *UNWRAPPED: An Original Christmas Revue*, a collaboration with Brock Pro Entertainment (Dec. 1-23); *Get Happy: Angela Ingersoll Sings Judy Garland* (Jan. 26-Feb. 7); *Murder for Two* (Feb. 17-28); *Ring of Fire* (March 1-April 4) and *My Way* (April 14-May 23).

Tickets for the fall season are on sale now. All tickets are \$59. To learn more about the shows and to purchase tickets, call 602-254-2151 or visit www.phoenixtheatre.com.

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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.

To learn more about digital content and outdoor performances, visit www.phoenixtheatre.com and connect on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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