

Romantic Musical Next to Take the Stage at The Phoenix Theatre Company

(June 16, 2021 – Phoenix, Ariz.) The summer season at The Phoenix Theatre Company continues with the charming two-person musical *Daddy Long Legs*, running June 23 through July 18 in the Hormel Theatre.

The heartwarming Cinderella story introduces audiences to a witty young woman and her mysterious college benefactor. This award-winning, off-Broadway hit musical offers gorgeous, soaring melodies, creative stage design and intricate costuming created by The Phoenix Theatre Company's on-staff artisans.

Daddy Long Legs follows Jerusha Abbott, who has grown up in an orphanage but is sent to college by a mysterious benefactor, who she dubs "Daddy Long Legs" after seeing his elongated shadow. In her quest to be a writer, the benefactor requires just one thing of Jerusha - that she write to him monthly, even though he will not respond. Jerusha's letters paint a moving portrait describing her new-found experiences with life outside the orphanage, and the development of her mind and spirit. Through the letters, Jerusha emerges as a fiercely independent, intelligent woman, who is destined to find love where she least expects it.

"Set in turn-of-the-century New England, the show demonstrates the delicate roller coaster of a developing relationship," said Robert Kolby Harper, *Daddy Long Legs* director. "Throughout the play, audiences will marvel at the evolution of the characters and the unfolding of the relationship through letters. The show truly represents the dance of figuring out the next move in a budding new relationship and discovering new and surprising things about yourself in the process."

Paul Gordon, known for transforming Jane Austen novels into musicals, wrote the music and lyrics. The book and direction is by Tony® award-winner John Caird (*Les Misérables*). Based on a classic novel which inspired the 1955 movie starring Fred Astaire, *Daddy Long Legs* is a beloved tale in the spirit of the Brontë Sisters and most recently *Downton Abbey* and appealing to audiences of all ages.

Audiences will adore James Gish as benefactor, Jervis Pendleton. Gish has starred in several productions at The Phoenix Theatre Company including starring roles in *My Way*, *West Side Story*, *Newsies* and *Jersey Boys*. Kathlynn Rodin portrays Jerusha Abbott. Audiences will remember Kathlynn from last season's production of *Sondheim on Sondheim*.

Daddy Long Legs is the second show produced indoors at The Phoenix Theatre Company since the start of the global pandemic. To keep audiences safe, face masks and temperature checks will be required for all staff and patrons. The indoor theatre's ventilation systems exceed recommendations by public health officials, and cleaning and disinfecting will occur frequently. Seating will not be socially-distanced. Safety protocols will continue to be updated to ensure patron and staff comfort and wellbeing.

Tickets for *Daddy Long Legs* are on sale now. To purchase 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 the state. 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 theatrical experiences by using the arts to articulate messages that inspire hope and understanding. For more information visit, www.phoenixtheatre.com.