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Hating Shakespeare Has Never Been this Fun!

The Phoenix Theatre Company Produces

Something Rotten!

(April 4, 2022 – PHOENIX) Let's face it, Shakespeare is pretty hard to beat, but in *Something Rotten!*, two brothers of the Renaissance give it a go. *Something Rotten!* is a 10-time Tony-Award nominated musical extravaganza and it's on stage at The Phoenix Theatre Company May 4 through June 19, 2022.

In the untold story of Shakespeare's greatest competition, this hilarious musical comedy follows brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom on their creative journey. Thanks to a vision from Nostradamus' food-obsessed nephew, the brothers discover the next big thing in theatre involves singing, dancing and acting – all at the same time. While the struggling playwrights are stuck in the shadow of the Renaissance rock star William Shakespeare, they have big dreams that not only lead to the invention of today's musical theatre, but also a whole lot of off-stage shenanigans. The rest is musical theatre history!

Combining everything audiences love about Broadway, including big song-and-dance numbers, a wacky cast of over-the-top characters, bold costumes and colorful sets, *Something Rotten!* is influenced by Broadway's most iconic styles, while also poking fun at them.

Director Kathy Fitzgerald takes her inspiration for *Something Rotten!* from some of the greatest names in comedy history. As a part of the cast of the original production of *The Producers* on Broadway, Fitzgerald cites Mel Brooks and Matthew Broderick as two of her biggest influences.

“Everything about this show is just a little bit tilted,” said Fitzgerald. “Everyone has these big, wild, totally unrealistic dreams of greatness and that’s where the comedy lives. When I first saw this musical, some of my closest friends were in the cast. It felt like a party on stage every night. You could tell how much fun they were having, and I wanted to recreate that feeling at The Phoenix Theatre Company. I want the audience to sense the chemistry of this great cast and to embrace that the characters are all totally out of their minds.”

In addition to Fitzgerald’s vision, choreographer Eric Sciotto, who worked on both the Broadway and touring productions of *Something Rotten!*, will bring a fresh take to the dance numbers in this production thanks to his deep knowledge of the material.

Songs like, “Welcome to the Renaissance” and “Hard to be the Bard,” offer a delightfully wacky take on history. Audiences will love revisiting everything from Renaissance fashions to Shakespeare’s legacy through this hilarious lens.

The professional cast has many familiar faces to The Phoenix Theatre Company audiences, including: Toby Yatso as William Shakespeare, Jonathan Shew as Nick Bottom, Sarah Ambrose as Portia, D. Scott Withers as Brother Jeremiah, Matravius Avent as Nigel Bottom, Kathy Fitzgerald as Nostradamus, Hayley Cassity as Bea, along with cast members Jonathan Duvelson, Devin Neilson, Cameron Holzman, Brandon Brown, Ryan Ardelt, Tony Blosser, Jacqueline Brecker, Sarah Wiechman, Derek Luscutoff, Katie Jurich, Tarnim Bybee, Alex Crossland, Aidan Lutton, Abbi Cavanaugh, Daniel Bargen, Cameron Eggers, Katie Calderone and Stephanie Funk.

Tickets for *Something Rotten!* are on sale now and start at just \$44. To purchase by phone, call (602) 254-2151 or visit www.phoenixtheatre.com.

At The Phoenix Theatre Company, masks are strongly encouraged. Seating is not socially distanced. Safety protocols will continue to be updated to ensure patron and staff comfort and wellbeing throughout the ongoing global pandemic. To provide patrons who would feel more comfortable in a fully masked and vaccinated environment with an opportunity to attend productions, the theatre has designated the following performances of *Something Rotten!* as "Mask and Vaccination Required." Those performances are Saturday, May 28 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m.

During these performances, masks and vaccines will be required for all patrons and staff in the lobby and theatres unless actively eating/drinking. No food or beverages will be allowed in the theatres and patrons must show proof of vaccination at their time of entry into the theatre with their valid ticket. “Fully vaccinated” means the performance date must be at least 14 days after the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine, or at least 14 days after a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

Exceptions are being made for children under 12 and people with a medical condition or closely held religious belief that prevents vaccination. These guests must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of the performance start time, or a negative COVID-19 antigen test taken within six hours of the performance start time.

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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. For more information, visit www.phoenixtheatre.com.