

**Go on a Healing Journey with Soldiers After the Ticker-Tape Parades End**  
*New show at The Phoenix Theatre Company shows the healing power of music*

(Sept. 14, 2022 – PHOENIX) *Bandstand* is a victorious and jazzy musical about America's World War II heroes who come home changed but find purpose and belonging within the rhythmic beats of swing, bebop and jitterbug. The Tony Award-winning musical is onstage at The Phoenix Theatre Company Sept. 21 through Oct. 23.

Struggling to fit into their old lives while dealing with the lingering effects of the war, including post-traumatic stress and survivor's guilt, a group of World War II U.S. veterans form a band comprised entirely of veterans to compete in a national patriotic radio contest. The winning song will be performed in a new Hollywood movie, potentially making the band members household names.

"Meeting these characters and watching them try to readjust to life after the war is inspirational and emotional," said Pasha Yamotahari, director. "The soldiers work to rekindle not only their friendships and relationships, but their passion for artistic expression after harrowing experiences overseas. The celebration of the era's music and dance helps audiences understand the love and appreciation these service members have for their country."

With music by Richard Oberacker, and book and lyrics by Oberacker and Robert Taylor, the open-hearted musical is a juxtaposition of joy and grief combined with toe-tapping musical numbers, heart-stopping dancing and raw emotion.

"This show is nostalgic and exemplifies an important post-war transition in our nation's history," added Yamotahari. "The brotherhood onstage is heartwarming and the way the cast portrays the impact of love, loss and effects of war is sure to leave a lasting impression on audiences of all ages."

*Bandstand* features spectacular choreography and a fantastic ensemble of actor-musicians. The Phoenix Theatre Company production includes Alex Crossland\* as Donny Novitski; John Elliott\* as Nick Radel; Noah Israel\* as Wayne Wright; Alan Mendez\* as Davy Zlatic; Gianni Palmarini as Jimmy Campbell; Zachary Scott Prall as Johnny Simpson; Jacqueline Brecker as Julia Trojan; and Linsey Maxson as Mrs. June Adams.

The ensemble includes Matravius Avent,\* Dallyn Brunck, Jacody Bullard, Hahnna Christianson, Trisha Ditsworth,\* EJ Dohring,\* Christopher Haley, Alexandria Joy, Darren McArthur, Carmiña Monserrat, Kayden Oliver,\* Tommy Paduano, and Veronica Quezada.

Tickets for *Bandstand* are on sale now. To purchase call (602) 254-2151 or visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

[Select Mask Required Performances](#)

In an effort to provide those who would feel more comfortable in a fully masked environment with an opportunity to attend our productions, we have designated a select upcoming performance of *Bandstand* as "Mask Required:" Oct. 15, 2022, at 2 p.m.

During these performances, masks will be required for all patrons and staff in our lobbies and theatres unless actively eating/drinking. Food and drinks will be allowed in the theatre. We ask that the mask be placed back on between bites or sips. Proof of vaccination and temperature checks will not be required.

**ASL/Audio Describe Night**

Audio Description and American Sign Language Interpretation are available for each production.

ASL/Audio Describe Night for *Bandstand* is Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

Content warnings: allusion to suicide, mention of death, alcohol use, and war imagery.

*\*Denotes members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers*

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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](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).