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## *Set Up Your Promposal, Order a Corsage and Head to “The Prom”*

(May 28, 2023 – PHOENIX) Prom is one of the most anticipated events for a high schooler and this summer it is getting a glittery and inclusive glow-up when *The Prom* debuts on stage at The Phoenix Theatre Company. The big-hearted, uplifting and funny musical runs June 7 to July 9, 2023.

“This show is sensory overload with glittery costumes, energetic dance numbers and songs that will make audiences want to sing out loud, but its message is rooted in the need for acceptance and inclusivity,” said Michael Barnard, the show’s director and producing artistic director for The Phoenix Theatre Company. “What starts as a selfish and insincere act results in a fabulous story of growth and a whole lot of heart.”

*The Prom* tells the story of an Indiana high school student, Emma, who wants more than anything to take her girlfriend to prom. When the parent-teacher association at her conservative school catches wind, they cancel the prom. The story goes viral on social media and reaches a group of Broadway performers looking for a cause they can use to redeem themselves after some failings in their own lives.

Without being asked, the four down-on-their-luck actors head to Indiana to throw Emma the prom of her dreams. They plan to correct an injustice and get some good publicity at the same time. Valley audiences will cheer for the over-the-top characters and their bumbling attempts at social activism that make the situation far worse than anyone ever imagined before they find out if love and acceptance win in the end.

“The arts are a great place to bridge a bond between people and foster a safe place for everyone. That’s what our mission at The Phoenix Theatre Company has always been and this musical exemplifies the message of acceptance and hope perfectly,” said Barnard. “This show is a reminder that theater is the escape we all need from the complexity of real life.”

Inspired by a series of actual events, *The Prom* is a seven-time-Tony-Award-nominated Broadway musical with music by Matthew Skylar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin and a book by Bob Martin.

The Phoenix Theatre Company is a professional theatre, producing shows from start to finish in-house with professional set and costume design, music, choreography and professional actors. The cast for *The Prom* contains some new faces as well as many Valley favorites, including Hahna Christianson as Emma, Tara Venkataraman as Alyssa, Kate Cook\* as Angie, Matravius Avent\* as Principal Hawkins, Alyssa Chiarello\* as Mrs. Greene, Debby Rosenthal\* as Dee Dee, Rusty Ferracane\* as Barry, Lucas Coatney\* as Trent, Chris Eriksen as Sheldon, Teddy Ladley as Nick, Tarnim Bybee as Kaylee and Wesley Bradstreet as Kevin.

Tickets for *The Prom* are on sale now and prices start at \$50. To purchase, call (602) 254-2151 or visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

### **Select Mask Required Performances**

To provide a production to those who would feel more comfortable in a fully masked environment, we have designated a select upcoming performance of *The Prom* as "Mask Required," on July 1, 2023, 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 *The Prom* is Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 7 p.m.

*Content Warning: The Prom may be appropriate for ages 11 and above. Note there is mature content and strong .adult language in the production.*

*\*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 not only the largest professional regional theatre company in the state, with nearly 500 performances each year on multiple stages, but it's also the first arts organization in Arizona and a founding member of the Central Arts District. Committed to advancing the performing arts in the Valley, The Phoenix Theatre Company's mission is to create exceptional theatrical experiences that inspire hope and understanding. For more information about our upcoming shows, campus venue, located at 1825 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix, outreach programs, and more, visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).