NEWS RELEASE ­– *For Immediate Release*

**Glitter, Glitz, and Gourmet: the Tale of Cooking in Drag**

*(March 19, 2019 – PHOENIX)* Cooking is a piece of cake, just as long as you have enough glitter, costume changes, and some back-up boys to handle the dirty work. Fans of The Phoenix Theatre Company are invited to witness a cast of colorful characters prove this is true when *Cookin’s a Drag,* a musical, opens April 24. The show tells the story of Betty D. Licious, the drag queen host of a cooking show, who gets her chance at a live TV special, but things don’t go quite as smoothly as planned. It runs live at The Phoenix Theatre Company April 24–May 19.

*Cookin’s a Drag* makes its world premiere in the Theatre’s 99th season after a successful reception in The Phoenix Theatre Company’s Festival of New American Theatre in 2018. The new musical comedy features a cast of very colorful characters and a story with heart.

“*Cookin’s a Drag* really encompasses so much of what we love to produce,” said Michael Barnard, producing artistic director for The Phoenix Theatre Company, and co-writer and director of *Cookin’s a Drag*. “It’s a new work, it’s full of laughs, and it has so much heart. Our hope is that audiences come out laughing and feeling a little better than they did walking in.”

Barnard wrote the script with additional text by Vincent VanVleet, managing director for The Phoenix Theatre Company, and D. Scott Withers, who will star as Betty D. Licious. Composer Clint Edwards contributed original music and lyrics with additional lyrics by Barnard. *Cookin’s a Drag* is based on a television pilot by the same name originally written by Producer Scott Weiner.

“Drag roles have been entertaining the masses since Shakespeare, so when we discovered the original TV pilot for *Cookin’s a Drag*, it made perfect sense to bring it to the stage,” said D. Scott Withers, who plays Betty D. Licious. “We thought turning *Cookin’s a Drag* into a musical was a no-brainer. Whenever I’m cooking something up in the kitchen, whether it’s something simple for myself or a big Thanksgiving feast, I always have music blasting. It makes cooking more fun.”

The cast of *Cookin’s a Drag* features many familiar faces to The Phoenix Theatre Company, starring D. Scott Withers as Betty D. Licious, who recently directed *Elf: The Musical*. Playing Betty’s back-up boys are Wesley Barnes, recently seen in *Godspell*, Logan Mitchell, seen last in *Jersey Boys*, and Eddie Maldonado, who played Bernardo in *West Side Story*. Local favorite Toby Yatso, seen last as Buddy the Elf in *Elf: The Musical*, will play Bradley, Betty’s producer. Terey Summers and Jonny Ramirez complete the cast as the Female Utilitarian Track and Swing, respectively.

*Cookin’s a Drag* tickets are on sale now and start at just $29. To purchase by phone, call (602) 254-2151 or visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://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. In 2020, The Phoenix Theatre Company will celebrate its 100th anniversary. For more information, visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/).

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