

50
YEARS

A.C.T.
AMERICAN
CONSERVATORY
THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press photos and kits: act-sf.org/press

**AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER TO PRESENT
THE WORLD-PREMIERE MUSICAL,
*A WALK ON THE MOON***

Based on the 1999 movie of the same name, *A Walk on the Moon* is a story of music, romance, and self-discovery set against the backdrop of Woodstock and the first moon landing

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater
June 9–July 1, 2018

SAN FRANCISCO (May 18, 2018)—Closing out the 2017–18 season, A.C.T. will present the world-premiere musical, *A Walk on the Moon* (June 9–July 1, 2018), based on the Miramax and Village Roadshow Pictures motion picture of the same name. In the summer of '69, America is on the brink of change. In the cities, crowds are protesting the Vietnam War. In the skies, Apollo 11 is speeding towards the first moon landing. And at a Catskills resort near Woodstock, NY, Jewish housewife Pearl Kantrowitz is busy balancing her rebellious teenage daughter, her overworked television repairman husband, and her daily *mah-jongg* game. But when Pearl meets a free-thinking traveling salesman, she undergoes a unique transformation, awakening a newfound spirit of exploration and sexuality. Under the direction of Tony Award nominee **Sheryl Kaller** (*Next Fall*), *A Walk on the Moon* features a book and additional lyrics by **Pamela Gray** (screenwriter of the 1999 movie), music and lyrics by composer **Paul Scott Goodman** (*Bright Lights, Big City*) and choreography by **Josh Prince** (*Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*). Fusing the spirit of '60s folk and rock with today's singer-songwriter sound, this stunning new musical captures a moving journey of self-discovery and the thrill of a generation in revolution. Press night for *A Walk on the Moon* will be held on Friday, June 15, 2018. **Single tickets** (ranging from \$15–\$110) are available at the A.C.T. Box Office at **415-749-2228** or online at www.act-sf.org. *Ticket prices are subject to change without notice.*

Says A.C.T. Artistic Director **Carey Perloff**: “As we recently discovered with both *A Night with Janis Joplin* and *Vietgone*, it’s eye-opening and illuminating to explore where America was culturally and politically 50 years ago. *A Walk on the Moon* is the gorgeous musical version of Pamela Gray’s film about the moment in 1969 when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, and the hopes and dreams of so many Americans walked with him. We have been developing the piece with the creative team for over a year, bringing together many of our favorite artists and introducing A.C.T. to some major new talents. The piece is about the pain and thrill of change, both personally and politically, and features original music, complex characters, and the indelible setting of a Jewish bungalow colony in upstate New York. I know it's going to be a joyful and epic way to end our season!”

A Walk on the Moon features (in alphabetical order) Olivier Award winner **Katie Brayben** (*Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*), **Brigid O’Brien** (*A Little Night Music* at A.C.T.) **Kerry O’Malley** (*Into the Woods* and *Billy Elliot* on Broadway), **Jonah Platt** (*Wicked* on Broadway; NBC’s *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert*), **Zak Resnick** (*Mamma Mia!* on Broadway; *The Last Five Years* at A.C.T.), and **Nick Sacks** (*Dear Evan Hansen* on Broadway). Rounding out the cast are: **Jeffrey Brian Adams**, **Jake Bronson**, **Elijah Cooper**, **Monique Hafen**, **Molly Hager**, **Nina Kissinger**, **Ariela Morgenstern**, **Vincent Randazzo**, and **Nathaniel Wayne**.

The creative team for *A Walk on the Moon* includes **Pamela Gray** (Book and Additional Lyrics), **Paul Scott Goodman** (Music and Lyrics), **Sheryl Kaller** (Director), **Josh Prince** (Choreographer), **Donyale Werle** (Scenic Designer), **Linda Cho** (Costume Designer), **Robert Wierzel** (Lighting Designer), **Leon Rothenberg** (Sound Designer), **Tal Yarden** (Projection Designer), **Greg Anthony Rassen** (Music Supervisor/Arranger), **Greg Kenna** (Music Director), **Michael Starobin** (Orchestrations), **AnnMarie Milazzo** (Vocal Arrangements), and **Matt DiCarlo** (Production Stage Manager).

In connection with *A Walk on the Moon*, A.C.T. will offer numerous **InterACT events**—many of which are presented free of charge—that will give patrons opportunities to get closer to the action while having an entire night out at the theater. Visit act-sf.org/interact to learn more about subscribing to these events throughout the season:

- **Prologue:**
Tuesday, June 12, 5:30 p.m.
Before the curtain goes up, get a sneak peek at the artistic process at this fascinating preshow discussion with the director and artistic staff.
- **Theater on the Couch:**
Friday, June 15, following the 8 p.m. performance
This exciting postshow discussion series addresses audience questions and explores the minds, motives, and behavior of the characters.
- **Audience Exchanges:**
Sunday, June 17, 2 p.m. | Tuesday, June 19, 8 p.m. | Wednesday, June 27, 2 p.m.

After the show, stick around for a lively Q&A session with the actors and artists who create the work onstage.

- **OUT with A.C.T.:**
Wednesday, June 20, following the 8 p.m. performance
The best LGBT night in town! Mingle with the cast and enjoy free drinks and treats at this popular after-party.
- **Wente Vineyards Wine Series:**
Tuesday, June 26, 7 p.m.
Before the show, raise a glass at this wine-tasting event featuring the Bay Area's hottest local winery.
- **PlayTime:**
Saturday, June 30, 12:45 p.m.
Before this matinee performance, get hands-on with the artists who make it happen at this interactive theater workshop.

A.C.T.'s production of *A Walk on the Moon* is made possible by Company Sponsors **Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Mary and Steven Swig;** Producers **Mary and Gene Metz; Donald J. and Toni Ratner Miller; Sally and Toby Rosenblatt; Abby and Gene Schnair;** Associate Producers **Marcia and Jim Levy; Drs. Michael and Jane Marmor; Milton Mosk and Thomas Foutch; Barbara Phillips; Joseph E. and Julie Ratner; Lori Halverson Schryer; Paul and Julie Seipp;** and Corporate Production Sponsor **Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.** Additional support provided by **The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Fund for New Works.**

A.C.T. would also like to acknowledge its 2017–18 Season Presenters **Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; James C. Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Arthur Rock and Toni Rembe; Mary and Steven L. Swig; Jeffrey W. and Laurie Ubben;** 2017-18 Company Sponsors **Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; Frannie Fleishhacker; Kevin and Celeste Ford; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Getty; Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Barbara Ravizza and John S. Osterweis; Patti and Rusty Rueff; Jack and Susy Wadsworth; Barry Williams and Lalita Tademy; Kay Yun and Andre Neumann-Loreck;** Season Partner **PG&E,** Lead Education Partner **Wells Fargo,** Official Airline Sponsor **United Airlines;** and Official Hotel Sponsor **Hotel G.**

A Walk on the Moon was originally presented by New York Stage and Film & Vassar in the Powerhouse Season in July 2014.

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FACT SHEET FOR A WALK ON THE MOON

WHAT:

In the summer of '69, America is on the brink of change. In the cities, crowds are protesting the Vietnam War. In the skies, Apollo 11 is speeding towards the first moon landing. And at a Catskills resort near Woodstock, NY, Jewish housewife Pearl Kantrowitz is busy balancing her rebellious teenage daughter, her overworked television repairman husband, and her daily *mah-jongg* game. But when Pearl meets a free-thinking traveling salesman, she undergoes a unique transformation, awakening a newfound spirit of exploration and sexuality. Based on the award-winning film, this stunning new musical fuses the spirit of '60s folk and rock with today's singer-songwriter sound, capturing a moving journey of self-discovery and the thrill of a generation in revolution.

WHO:

Book by **Pamela Gray**

Music and lyrics by **Paul Scott Goodman**

Additional lyrics by **Pamela Gray**

Directed by **Sheryl Kaller**

CAST (*in alphabetical order*):

Jeffrey Brian Adams, Katie Brayben, Monique Hafen, Molly Hager, Nina Kissinger, Ariela Morgenstern, Brigid O'Brien, Kerry O'Malley, Jonah Platt, Zak Resnick, and Nick Sacks.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Pamela Gray (Book and Additional Lyrics), **Paul Scott Goodman** (Music and Lyrics), **Josh Prince** (Choreographer), **Donyale Werle** (Scenic Designer), **Linda Cho** (Costume Designer), **Robert Wierzel** (Lighting Designer), **Leon Rothenberg** (Sound Designer), **Tal Yarden** (Projection Designer), **Greg Anthony Rassen** (Music Supervisor/Arranger), **Greg Kenna** (Music Director), **Michael Starobin** (Orchestrations), **AnnMarie Milazzo** (Vocal Arrangements), and **Matt DiCarlo** (Production Stage Manager)

WHERE:

A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary St., San Francisco)

WHEN:

June 9–July 1, 2018

Press Night: Friday, June 15, 2018

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays–Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m.

InterACT Events

Prologue: June 12 (5:30 p.m.)

Theater on the Couch: June 15 (8 p.m.)

Audience Exchanges: June 17 (2 p.m.), June 19 (7 p.m.), June 27 (2 p.m.)

OUT with A.C.T.: June 20 (8 p.m.)

Wine Series: June 26 (7 p.m.)

PlayTime: June 30 (12:45 p.m.)

TICKETS:

\$15–\$110

Ticket prices are subject to change without notice

TIX & INFO:

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