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CABARET Opens Olney Theatre Center's 82nd Season
Kander and Ebb classic reunites star Alexandra Silber as Sally Bowles with
director and Shakespeare Theatre Associate Artistic Director Alan Paul

OLNEY, MD – July 24, 2019 – Olney Theatre Center launches the 2019-2020 season on the Mainstage with **Kander and Ebb's CABARET directed by Alan Paul (August 28 - October 6, 2019)**. Broadway veteran **Alexandra Silber**, who played Guinevere in Paul's 2019 Helen Hayes Award-winning production of *Camelot*, and Tzeitel in the acclaimed Bart Sher revival of *Fiddler on the Roof*, will star as Sally Bowles, the flamboyant showgirl carried away by the glitz and debauchery of Weimar Berlin. **Invited press night is Saturday, August 31 at 8:00pm.**

Alan Paul notes the sudden topicality of the musical, "Although the show was written in the 1960's (and about the 1930s), it is modern. It is about complicity, and what happens when citizens of 1930's Berlin turn a blind eye to the rise of the Nazis. It has huge political overtones now as we think about what it means to be a citizen in this incredibly partisan and political moment."

In 1929 Berlin, Cliff arrives to work on his novel but finds himself swept up in the life of the cabaret with its bawdy Emcee, and swept away by the performer and provocateur Sally Bowles. Bunked together at Fräulein Schneider's boarding house, their impossible affair bumps up against the threatened love between their landlord and a Jewish fruit seller. From the opening notes of "Willkommen" through the title song and such classics as "Don't Tell Mama" and "Money," *Cabaret* delivers a raw theatrical experience on a knife's edge between unbridled sexuality and looming disaster.

Says Olney Theatre Center's Artistic Director, Jason Loewith, "We're thrilled to be working with Alan Paul who has become in a very short time, one of the top musical theatre directors in the region and the country. And I can't wait to bring back some of our audience's

favorite performers from past seasons, like **Gregory Maheu as Cliff** (*Once*), **Tom Story as Ernst** (*Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*), **Jessica Lauren Ball as Fraulein Kost** (*South Pacific*), **Mitchell Hébert as Herr Schneider** (*Mary Stuart*) and **Donna Migliaccio as Fraulein Schneider** (*On The Town*). It's also a thrill to introduce the Olney community to **Alexandra Silber as Sally Bowles**, and introduce all of DC to the incredible **Mason Alexander Park** as our Emcee." Park has previously appeared as the standby for the title character in the national tour of the Broadway production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Other credits include Frank-N-Futer in the Bucks County Playhouse production of the *Rocky Horror Show* and recurring roles on Nickelodeon shows *iCarly* and *Bucket & Skinner's Epic Adventures*.

Rounding out the ensemble are **Jessica Bennett, Ben Gunderson, Andre Hinds, Lina Lee, Connor James Reilly, Bridget Riley, Katy Tabb, Louisa Tringali,** and **Rick Westerkamp**.

Paul's collaborators on the creative team include, Chicago-based Choreographer **Katie Spelman** whose recent credits include *Oklahoma!* at the Goodspeed Opera House and she will serve as Associate Choreographer on the upcoming **Broadway production of *Moulin Rouge***. OTC's Associate Artistic Director **Christopher Youstra serves as Music Director**, Set Designer **Wilson Chin** makes his OTC debut, having worked extensively on the regional theatre scene and provided designs for *Next Fall* on Broadway, as well as off-Broadway hits *The Thanksgiving Play* (Playwrights Horizon) and *Cost of Living* (Manhattan Theatre Club). **Kendra Rai** (*Elf The Musical*) and Ali Pohanka (*Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical*) return to OTC to design costumes and wigs, respectively. OTC veterans **Colin K. Bills** (*Mary Stuart*) and **Matt Rowe** (*Once*) are also back for another Mainstage musical. **John Keith Hall** is the stage manager and Madison Bahr is the assistant stage manager.

Cabaret

Book by Joe Masteroff

Based on the play by John Van Druten and stories by Christopher Isherwood

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Music Direction by Christopher Youstra

Choreographed by Katie Spelman

Directed by Alan Paul

August 28 - October 6, 2019

Press Opening: Saturday, August 31, 2019 at 8:00 pm

Regular performances are Wednesday-Saturday at 8:00 pm; matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm; and Wednesday matinees at 2:00 pm on September 4, 11, and 18 and October 2. No Saturday matinee on August 31.

There will be an Audio-described performance for the blind and visually impaired on Wednesday, September 11 at 8:00 pm and a sign-interpreted performance on Thursday, September 19 at 8:00 pm. Audience members who wish to use these services should contact Julie Via, Patron Services Manager (jvia@olneytheatre.org) to confirm.

Tickets begin at \$42. Discounts available for groups, seniors, military, and students.

Special Events:

- **Behind-the-Scenes: From the Weimar Republic to Now**

Saturday, August 31 at 5:00 pm

\$10/Free for Olney Theatre Center Members

Prior to the opening night of *Cabaret* we'll take a historic overview of the Weimar Republic's rise and cultural impact on previously marginalized groups as well as its decline, leading to the Nazi seizure of power. We'll also explore how that narrative resonates for other traditionally marginalized groups today.

- **Night at the Movies: *Chicago* (2002)**

Friday, September 27 at 8:15 pm

Join us, and sing along, to this satire about crime, greed, and sex from the creators of *Cabaret*. As anyone who watched the Fosse/Verdon series on FX knows, *Chicago* was a passion project for Gwen Verdon and Bob Fosse who re-teamed with Kander and Ebb to create the musical. Though the original met with mixed reviews on Broadway, the 1996 revival was a hit that is still running. Its success spawned this star-studded 2002 film directed by Rob Marshall and was the recipient of six Oscars including Best Picture.

- *Afterwords* discussions with the cast and crew take place following most Saturday matinee performances.

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces, presents and tours extraordinary performances for a diversity of audiences, and educates and inspires the next generation of theater-makers.

Vision

We strive every day to unleash the creative potential of our artists and audiences, and in so doing, become a nationally-prominent destination for the most impactful theater performance and education.

History

Once a summer stock retreat in rural Maryland, Olney Theatre Center is now an award-winning, year-round regional theatre surrounded in a 15-mile radius by 1.6 million people representing three of the most ethnically diverse counties in America. Since our founding in 1938, some of the biggest names in theatre have appeared on our stages: from "Golden Era" stars like Helen Hayes and Tallulah Bankhead to contemporary artists like Sir Ian McKellen, Robin De Jesús, and many others. OTC welcomed Artistic Director Jason Loewith and Managing Director Debbie Ellinghaus in 2013 and 2014, respectively, who established a new artistic strategy to broaden programming with the goal of nurturing a diversity of voices and audiences. Olney Theatre Center now produces musicals and plays under the three rubrics of Classic, Contemporary and Family programming. Since 2013 Olney Theatre Center has twice won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Production, the Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play and presented six world premieres. Complementing this work, OTC fulfills its mission as a teaching theater with educational programs like the Our Play program in local 5th grade classrooms, a summer camp and a year-round professional apprentice program. National Players, now in its 70th Season, is the hallmark outreach program of OTC, a unique ensemble touring innovative theater to communities large and small across the United States.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org.

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