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**NATALIE WEISS TO STAR IN RESIDENT REGIONAL PREMIERE OF
BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL AT OLNEY THEATRE
CENTER, DIRECTED BY AMY ANDERS CORCORAN**

The final production of Olney Theatre's 23-24 Season also features Michael Perrie Jr. as Gerry Goffin, Nikki Mirza as Cynthia Weil, Calvin McCullough as Barry Mann, and Bobby Smith as Don Kirschner

Olney, MD — May 23, 2024 — Natalie Weiss (photo available [here](#)), a Broadway performer and vocal teacher who gained viral fame and over a quarter-million subscribers to her YouTube channel "Breaking Down the Riffs," will star in the title role of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* in Olney Theatre Center's Roberts Mainstage. This final production of Olney Theatre's 23-24 Season begins previews on July 3.

Press are invited to attend the opening night performance on **Saturday, July 6, at 8:00 pm**: email sstraub@olneytheatre.org to reserve two tickets. The production is scheduled to run through **Sunday, August 25**. Tickets cost \$31-\$96 and are available at olneytheatre.org/beautiful or by calling the box office (301-924-3400).

"*Beautiful* is one of the most inspiring musicals I know," says Olney Theatre Artistic Director **Jason Loewith**. "The music of Carole King shaped my childhood, and the story of her challenging ascent as one of the premiere songwriters of her era lends this jukebox musical a greater sense of drama and joy than most."

Loewith continued, "**We're especially fortunate to have Natalie Weiss** in the title role. Just as the emerging genre of the singer-songwriter allowed Carole to become a superstar, the 21st-century path for singer-songwriters is online, and that's where Natalie has made such an impact. Millions of viewers seek out her performances and keen insight into the mechanics of performing on her show, "Breaking Down the Riffs." If Carole King were starting her career today, I've no doubt she would have found her audience the way Natalie has."

Joining Weiss in the cast are a lineup of DMV-favorites including **Bobby Smith** (Don Kirschner), **Nikki Mirza** (Cynthia Weil), **Michael Perrie Jr.**, (Gerry Goffin), and **Calvin**

McCullough (Barry Mann), **Kaiyla Gross** (Shirelle), **Jay Frisby** (Drifter), **Donna Migliaccio** (Genie), **Connor James Reilly** (Righteous Brother), **Ian Anthony Coleman** (Drifter), **Kalen Robinson** (Janelle), **Quadry Brown** (Drifter), **Ariana Caldwell** (Little Eva), **Tori Gomez** (Betty), **Montel B. Butler** (Drifter), **Kurt Boehm** (Righteous Brother), **Lily Burka** (Marilyn), and **Simone Brown** (Shirelle). **Angelo Harrington II** and **Christian Montgomery** serve as swings for the production.

Amy Anders Corcoran makes her **Olney Theatre Center** directorial debut. Her prior work includes a new production of *Disney's The Little Mermaid* for Disney Wish, *Christmas in Connecticut* at Goodspeed Musicals, and a turn as assistant director for the Broadway production of *Escape from Margaritaville* and director of its subsequent national tour. She is a recipient of the SDC Noël Coward Fellowship for Comedic Direction. Also on the creative team is **Ashleigh King** (Choreographer), fresh off the critical praise for her work on *Hair* at Signature Theatre. **King is no stranger to Olney Theatre Center having performed in over a dozen productions, this is her first time serving as choreographer for a Mainstage season production.** Joining her, **Christopher Youstra** (Music Director), Olney Theatre's Associate Artistic Director and Director of Music Theatre will be conducting a 10-piece band. Also returning to Olney Theatre are **Deb Sivigny** (Set Designer), **Kendra Rai** (Costume Designer), **Colin K. Bills** (Lighting Designer), **Matthew Rowe** (Sound Designer), and **Larry Peterson** (Wig Co-designer). New to Olney Theatre are **Alia Radabaugh** (Wig Co-designer) and **Sarah Hinrichsen** (Assistant Director). **Ben Walsh** (Resident Stage Manager) and **Allison Bailey** (Assistant Stage Manager) are rounding out the team.

Beautiful is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. mtishows.com

PRODUCTION DETAILS

BEAUTIFUL

The Carole King Musical

Book by Douglas McGrath

Words and Music by

Gerry Goffin and Carole King

Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil

Music by Arrangement with Sony/ATV Music Publishing

Orchestrations, Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by Steve Sidwell

Music Directed by Christopher Youstra

Choreographed by Ashleigh King

Directed by Amy Anders Corcoran

Dates, Location, Tickets

July 3 - August 25, 2024

Roberts Mainstage

Olney Theatre Center

2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

Olney, MD 20832

Tickets: \$31 - \$96 available at olneytheatre.org and 301-924-3400

Performance Schedule

Wednesdays through Saturdays evenings at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 1:30 pm.

Select Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm on July 14, 28, and August 4

Special Curtain time on Saturday, July 6, at 8:00 pm for Invite-Only Opening

No matinee performance on Saturday, July 6; and no evening performance on

Thursday, July 25 at 7:30 pm.

Accessible Performances

ASL Interpreted Performance – Thursday, July 18, at 7:30 pm

Audio-Described Performance – Wednesday, July 24 at 7:30 pm

ABOUT OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

Mission

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports, and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

Vision

We strive to become an arts and culture powerhouse, redefining the American regional theater movement by cultivating and sharing the creativity of our community.

History

Founded in 1938 as a summer playhouse, Olney Theatre Center now produces world and American premieres of plays and musicals and reimaginings of familiar titles year-round; presents the work of leading companies and artists; tours nationally and locally; teaches students of all ages; and mentors a more inclusive generation of theatremakers. For more than eight decades, Olney Theatre Center has brought impactful theater performance and education to our community, helping to grow the vibrancy and vitality of our home in the Washington, DC, region.

Over the years, some of the biggest names in theater and film have appeared on our stages, including Tallulah Bankhead, Helen Hayes, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Bob Fosse, Phillip Bosco, Eve Arden, Eva Gabor, Burl Ives, Jose Ferrer, Carol Channing, Olivia de Havilland, Tony Randall, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy and Lillian Gish, Jane Seymour, Anne Revere, Frances Sternhagen, Arthur Treacher, James Broderick, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen, Marica Gay Harden, John Colicos, Uzo Aduba, Alan Cumming, Cheyenne Jackson, Robin de Jesus, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, among many, many others.

Olney Theatre is now the cultural anchor of a rapidly changing region and serves one of the most diverse, best-educated, and wealthiest counties in the country. Situated on the unceded land of the Piscataway-Conoy people, the Olney area was once a rural farming community with a unique Quaker heritage. Now, the area is occupied by every kind of family that makes up 21st Century America, along with major corporations, shopping districts, civic associations, non-profit organizations, and a diverse collection of houses of worship. Montgomery County's 1 million residents play a dynamic role in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and are a driving force behind the region's creative economy.

Olney Theatre Center employs 40 full-time staff, 20 part-time positions, 26 early career apprentices and players, and more than 400 professional artists annually. The Theatre intends to continue expanding to better meet the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org/history

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