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DISNEY'S FROZEN GETS REGIONAL RESIDENT PREMIERE, DIRECTED BY SESAME STREET VETERAN ALAN MURAOKA

Choreographer Kelly Crandall d'Amboise and Music Director Christopher Youstra are part of a creative team that's among the first authorized by Disney to create a unique staging. Cast led by Alex De Bard, Kennedy Kanagawa, Ricky DeVon Hall, and newcomer Gabriela Hernandez

Olney, MD — September 25, 2024 — Olney Theatre Center, one of the handful of regional theatres chosen by Disney to create their own, original production of *Frozen*, runs the musical October 24, 2024 - January 5, 2025 on the Roberts Mainstage. Written by the Oscar and Tony Award-winning team of **Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Robert Lopez** (Music and Lyrics) and **Jennifer Lee** (Book), the international sensation is directed at Olney Theatre by **Alan Muraoka**, best known as the proprietor of Hooper's Store on *Sesame Street*. This will be the Emmy Award-winning actor and director's third musical at Olney, where he previously directed *Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific* and *Once On This Island*. Local favorite **Alex De Bard** (*Kinky Boots*) stars as Anna and is joined by rising star **Gabriela Hernandez** as Elsa, **Kennedy Kanagawa** (Broadway's *Into The Woods*) as Olaf, and **Ricky DeVon Hall** (Woolly Mammoth's *Incendiary*) as Kristoff.

The invited press performance is Sunday, October 27 at 7:00 pm (note the earlier curtain time). Interested critics may reserve one or two tickets by emailing sstraub@olneytheatre.org. Tickets are available to the public from \$26 - \$110 and can be purchased at olneytheatre.org/frozen or by calling the box office at 301-924-3400. To accommodate younger audiences, **curtain times for this production only** will be at 7:00 pm for evening performances and 1:00 pm for matinees.

Says **Artistic Director Jason Loewith**, "It's a great testament to the success we've achieved with our big holiday musicals like *Beauty and the Beast* and *Mary Poppins* that Disney selected Olney Theatre Center to mount the *Frozen*'s first resident professional production in the DMV." He continued, "**Alan Muraoka** with, his decades of experience on *Sesame Street*, leads the biggest creative team we've ever put together. Both kids and adults are going to love this new, intimate staging of Disney's smash-hit celebration of sisterhood."

Muraoka has won 2 Emmy Awards for Directing and Producing the iconic television series *Sesame Street*, where for the past 26 years, he has played Alan, the proprietor of Hooper's Store. His extensive theatrical experience includes performing in 7 Broadway shows and a growing list of directing credits, in addition to *South Pacific* (2018) and *Once On This Island* (2014) at Olney Theatre, his work includes: *Kafka's Metamorphosis: The Musical!*

(Edinburgh Fringe Festival), *Zac Efron* (World Premiere-Token Theatre Chicago), *Clue* (Dallas Theater Center), *Elf* (Pioneer Theatre), *Gold Mountain* (Utah Shakespeare Festival), *Awesomer & Awesomer!!!* (Legacy Theatre). His New York theatre credits include: *Avenue Q* (Off Broadway-Resident Director), *The Report* (NY Fringe), *Kung Fu* (Signature Theatre-Assistant Director), *Elizabeth Ward Land: Still Within The Sound of My Voice* (Green Room 42, Bistro Award- Best Tribute Show 2020) *Ann Harada: American Songbook* (Lincoln Center), *Grand Hotel* (NYU/Cap 21), *Falsettoland* (NAATCO), and *John Tartaglia AD-LIBerty* (Joe's Pub). Alan is joined on the creative team by **Christopher Youstra** (Music Director), **Kelly d'Amboise** (Choreographer), **Paige Hathaway** (Scenic Designer), **Kendra Rai** (Costume Designer), **Christina Watanabe** (Lighting Designer), **Matt Rowe** (Sound Designer), **Kylie Clark** (Puppet Designer), **Patrick Lord** (Projection Designer), **Ryan Phillips** (Magic Consultant), and **Larry Peterson** (Wig Designer).

Also joining the Cast are **Jay Frisby** (King Agnar), **Sarah Anne Sillers** (Queen Iduna), **Tyler Dobies** (Pabbie), **Crystal J. Freeman** (Bulda), **Noah Israel** (Hans), **Jared Michael Delaney** (Weselton), **Alex Mills** (Sven), **Jamie Smithson** (Oaken). **Elise Chrappah** and **Aliza Cohen** share the role of Young Anna. **Ruth Benson** and **Taylor Esguerra** split duties on Young Elsa. The ensemble includes **Jessica Bennett**, **Quadry Brown**, **Mia Goodman**, **Angelo Harrington II**, **Stephen C. Kallas**, **Ariel Kraje**, **Robert Mintz**, and **Haley Nachlas**. **Stellamaris Orellana** and **Walker James Vlahos** are swings.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

Olney Theatre Center's Production of

Disney's Frozen

Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez

Book by Jennifer Lee

Originally directed on Broadway by Michael Grandage

Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee and directed by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee

Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Group

Original Broadway Orchestrations by Dave Metzger

Original Broadway Music Supervision and Arrangements by Stephen Oremus

Additional Broadway Dance Arrangements by David Chase

Music Directed by Christopher Youstra

Choreographed by Kelly d'Amboise

Directed by Alan Muraoka

Disney's Frozen Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019 www.MTIShows.com

Dates, Location, Tickets

October 24, 2024 - January 5, 2025

Roberts Mainstage

Olney Theatre Center

2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road
Olney, MD 20832

Tickets: \$35 - \$110 available at olneytheatre.org/frozen and 301-924-3400

Discounts for teachers, active military, and first responders are available at:
olneytheatre.org/discounts

Performance Schedule

Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday matinees at 1:00 pm.

Select Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Additional performances around Thanksgiving and Winter Break.

See the full schedule at: <https://tickets.olneytheatre.org/overview/frozen>

Accessible Performances

Audio-Described Performance – Wednesday, November 6 at 7:00 pm

ASL Interpreted Performance – Thursday, November 7 at 7:30 pm

Sensory Friendly Performance – Saturday, December 7 at 1:00 pm

RELATED EVENTS

Opening Night Panel: Unleashing Kids' Imaginations: How Performance Supercharges Creativity

Sunday, October 27, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

Roberts Mainstage

\$10 / Free for members

Frozen director Alan Muraoka is well-known to millions of kids (and their parents) as the proprietor of Hooper's Store on *Sesame Street*. Join Alan and Hallie Gordon, Olney's Senior Associate Artistic Director and the founder of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre for Young Adults, for a wide-ranging conversation about how performance impacts the imagination in young audiences.

In The Community—

Story Time at the Olney Library

Sunday, Nov 3, 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Olney Public Library (3500 Olney Laytonsville Rd, Olney, MD 20832)

No RSVP. Just show up!

As part of our celebration of "Frozen," we're sponsoring a morning of stories at the Olney Public Library. This is a free family event appropriate for all ages, especially toddlers, preschoolers, and young children. Books to be read include an abridged version of the Snow Queen by Hans Christian Anderson and the books on various Frozen characters.

Story Reader:

Liz Osborn, theatre and TV/movie actress, has worked extensively at theatres across the country, as well as in multi-award winning movies, tv shows, commercials and industrials. These days however, you may recognize her more for her role as “mom”; she spends a lot of her time at libraries entertaining (her kids) and others with wonderful theatrical tales!

Montgomery County Public Library’s “My First Book Club”

Title: *Frozen*

Discussion Date: Nov 12, 2024 at 4:00 pm

Location: *Olney Public Library (3500 Olney Laytonsville Rd, Olney, MD 20832)*

Join us for a book club for children who are learning to read. Together we'll read *Frozen* followed by a literary activity and a song! You do not need to read the book before the program. Dabney Doepner, actor and apprentice at Olney Theatre Center will lead this program.

For Grades Kindergarten-1st. Parents/caregivers **MUST** accompany children under the age of 12 during the program.

Beyond the Stage: Disney Trivia!

Thursday, Dec 5th, 2024

6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Actors Hall at Olney Theatre Center

Price: \$10

If your brain is full of random Disney-related knowledge that you don't know what to do with, put it to the test with our Happy Hour Disney Trivia Night!

Backstage Tours -

Sundays post-matinee

November 10, 17, 24

Location: Mainstage Theatre at Olney Theatre Center

Elsa's dress! Building Olaf! How does a professional theater bring the magic behind *Frozen* to life? We want to show you!

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 (OTC) 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 8 decades, OTC 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 d'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, Bernadette Peters, 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 45 full time staff, 20+ part-time positions, 13 early career apprentices, and more than 400 professional artists annually. The Theatre is currently in the final phase of a \$36M capital campaign to build new infrastructure that better meets the needs of our community.

For more information, please visit olneytheatre.org/history

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Instagram, TikTok, and Threads @olneytheatre and on Facebook at facebook.com/olneytheatre.

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