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**NEW UPDATE OF KANDER & EBB'S *THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND* AT  
OLNEY THEATRE CENTER FEATURES DMV STARS DIAZ,  
MCALLISTER, AND PAYTON**

**New production includes post-1991 Kander & Ebb works, and features video tributes from Dame Judi Dench, Chita Rivera and more**

Olney, MD — March 17, 2023 — *The World Goes 'Round*, the critically acclaimed revue featuring the music of John Kander and Fred Ebb that premiered off-Broadway in 1991, gets a new look in a three-way co-production by ArtsCentric, Everyman Theatre, and Olney Theatre Center. Directed by Kevin S. McAllister, who serves as both ArtsCentric Artistic Director and Olney Theatre's Director of Curated Programs/BIPOC Artist Advocate, the show opens first at Olney Theatre Center with performances running on the Mainstage April 19 - May 21, 2023, before moving north to Everyman in Baltimore, June 6 - July 2, 2023.

**Press is invited to request two tickets to the Olney Theatre opening night gala performance on Saturday, April 22 at 8:00 pm by emailing [sstraub@olneytheatre.org](mailto:sstraub@olneytheatre.org).** Tickets for the Olney Theatre run cost \$47-\$100 and are available at [olneytheatre.org](http://olneytheatre.org) or by calling the box office (301-924-3400).

**Jason Loewith**, Olney Theatre's Artistic Director, said, "This project, bringing together **three local theatre companies**, is really a testament to the artistic vision and endless hustle of Kevin McAllister. When he came to me and **Vinny Lancisi** with the idea to update this Kander and Ebb celebration for a new generation, I had to say 'yes.' Yes to Kevin, and yes to collaborating with his company ArtsCentric and my good friends at Everyman. Kevin creates community wherever he goes."

**Director Kevin McAllister adds**, "I think younger folks who have really gotten into musical theatre since the advent of shows like *Hamilton* are going to be surprised at how much they can detect the influence of Kander and Ebb's work on the shows they love. **Kander and Ebb were ahead of their time in their embrace of stories at the margins of society** -- the persecuted, the gender-fluid, the hustlers, and the incarcerated. There is factual history in their work. There

is truth about the struggles of racism, equal pay, injustice, and empowerment. And, they made it all irresistibly entertaining with just the right mix of sentiment and world-wise cynicism. This production aims to celebrate these trailblazers by creating a **new production that invites younger, more diverse audiences to enjoy the two masterminds whose creative works are still as controversial and popular as they were over 60 years ago**. Their music is everywhere, all over the world, every day. Most of us don't even know it. ArtsCentric, Olney Theatre, and Everyman Theatre aim to change that."

In addition to co-founding ArtsCentric and numerous local directing credits, McAllister is also the **Assistant Directing Fellow for the Broadway and national touring productions of *Come From Away***.

*The World Goes 'Round*, which was originally created by Scott Ellis, Susan Stroman and David Thompson, features some of Kander and Ebb's best-loved songs from *Chicago* and *Cabaret*, as well as pieces from lesser-known gems, including *The Rink*, *Flora and the Red Menace*, and *Woman of the Year*. It also features the classic song "New York, New York" which is about to reemerge on Broadway. **McAllister's production updates the original** by including, with permission, songs from Kander and Ebb's post-1991 output like *The Scottsboro Boys* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

The onstage talent for the production is impressive. Helen Hayes Award-winners **Nova Y. Payton** (Ford's Theatre's *Grace*) and **Natascia Diaz** (Signature's *Passion*) are joined by **Karen Vincent** to take on the roles assigned as Woman 1, 2, and 3. **McAllister (himself a Broadway veteran of *Caroline, or Change* and *Come From Away*)** and the New York-based **Harris Milgrim** take on the male roles. Swings for the production are **Ben Clark** and **MaryKate Brouillet**.

While pulling double duty as actor and director, McAllister will have the assistance of **Christopher Youstra** as Music Director, **Shalyce Hemby** as Choreographer, and **Ashleigh King** as Associate Director. Rounding out the creative team are **Daniel Etitnger** (set designer), **Aja Jackson** (lighting designer), **Moyenda Kulemeka** (costume designer), Patrick Lord (projections designer), and **Matt Rowe** (sound designer). Clara Ash-Moore is the associate projections designer. New York casting was handled by McCorkle Casting Ltd. **Ben Walsh** is the Production Stage Manager.

### **First Time Free**

Once again, Olney Theatre Center is making **4 free tickets to preview performances of *The World Goes Round*** (April 9, 10 & 11) available to new patrons who have never attended a production. Those tickets may be reserved by using the code **1stTimeFree** prior to selecting seats.

### **MASK POLICY**

Masks are recommended but not required at performances. This policy is subject to change, visit [OlneyTheatre.org/health](https://www.olneytheatre.org/health) for more information.

## **EVENT DETAILS**

### **The World Goes 'Round**

Music by John Kander

Lyrics by Fred Ebb

Conceived by Scott Ellis, Susan Stroman, David Thompson

Directed by Kevin S. McAllister

Choreography by Shalyce Hemby

Music Direction by Christopher Youstra

Associate Director Ashleigh King

Scenic Designer Daniel Ettinger

Costume Designer Moyenda Kulemeka

Lighting Designer Aja Jackson

Projections Designer Patrick Lord

Sound Designer Matt Rowe

Production Stage Manager Ben Walsh

### **Begins performances: April 19, 2023**

**Previews:** April 19 - April 21, 2023

**Press opening:** Saturday, April 22 at 8:00 pm (RSVP to [sstraub@olneytheatre.org](mailto:sstraub@olneytheatre.org))

**Scheduled to run through:** May 21, 2023

Performances Wednesday through Saturday at 8:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm, Wednesday matinees at 2:00 pm on April 26 and May 10. No Saturday matinee on April 22.

### **Accessibility**

GalaPro captioning on smartphones and tablets is available for all performances.

Audio-described performance for the visually impaired on Wednesday, May 3 at 8:00 pm.

Sign-interpreted performance on Thurs., May 11 at 8:00 pm.

## **Related Events at Olney Theatre**

### **Community Engagement Mixer**

Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 6:30 to 7:45 PM

Location: Actors Hall, Olney Theatre Center

Do you want to join the Community Engagement Committee at Olney Theatre? Email [community@olneytheatre.org](mailto:community@olneytheatre.org) and learn more about the committee and the Mixer!

### **Story Hour at Olney Library**

Sunday, April 16, 2023, from 11 AM to 12 PM

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

FREE (No registration. Just show up!)

As part of our celebration of *The World Goes 'Round*, we're sponsoring a morning of stories at the Olney Public Library hosted by Liz Osborn. This is a free family event appropriate for all ages, especially toddlers, preschoolers, and young children. Books to be read are chosen with the help of the Olney librarian.

### **Behind the Scenes -**

#### **The Place of Kander & Ebb in the American Musical Theatre Canon with Kevin McCallister & Chris Youstra**

Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 5 to 6 PM

Location: Main Stage, Olney Theatre Center

Tickets: \$10/Free for members

### **Broadway/Musical Trivia Night**

Thursday, May 4, 2023 from 6 to 7:30 PM

Location: Actors Hall, Olney Theatre Center

Tickets: \$10

If your brain is full of random musical-related knowledge that you don't know what to do with, put it to the test at our happy hour Broadway/Musical Trivia Night! Sign up with a team, or come as a single and make some new friends.

Host: Chris Youstra

### **Beyond the Stage -**

#### **Songwriting Workshop w/ Taisha Estrada**

Sunday, May 7, 2023, from 4 to 6 PM

Location: 1938 Original Theatre, Olney Theatre Center

Tickets: \$10

No matter what genre you choose to create in, the fundamentals of writing good songs are the same. Learn about the basics of songwriting: from chord progressions to lyrics, to how to tell compelling stories that keep audiences engaged. Create music on the spot and workshop your own tunes. All you need is a notebook, pen, your preferred instrument, and a willing attitude to participate in this session. All levels are welcome!

## **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, 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](http://olneytheatre.org/history)

Follow Olney Theatre Center on Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok @olneytheatre and on Facebook at [facebook.com/olneytheatre](https://facebook.com/olneytheatre).

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