

FUNNY GIRL

HELLO, GORGEOUS!

THE SEGAL CENTRE
PRESENTS A RARE REVIVAL
OF THE BROADWAY HIT
THAT PROPELLED BARBRA
STREISAND TO STARDOM

2015 11 / OCT / NOV

EXTENDED
TO NOV. 8!



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRODUCTION
SPONSOR



WITH GENEROUS
SUPPORT FROM



Montreal, October 15, 2015 – The Segal Centre opens its 2015-16 Theatre Season with **FUNNY GIRL**, a celebrated musical about the public triumphs and private struggles of 1920's stage star, Fanny Brice. Powerhouse performer **Gabi Epstein** steps into the role of Fanny Brice, joined by a stellar 18-person cast. Featuring sensational production numbers, including the show-stopping songs "People" and "Don't Rain on My Parade," this wonderfully extravagant yet intimate story is brought to life on the Segal stage by visionary director **Peter Hinton**, **opening October 11, and extended through to November 8!** *Funny Girl* is presented with the generous support of Delmar and Muse Entertainment.

"HELLO, GORGEOUS!"

FUNNY GIRL dives into the dazzling world of showbiz and offers up the gripping rags-to-riches story of real-life stage sensation, Fanny Brice. Set in and around New York City, before and after WWI, and celebrating a woman who flouted Broadway's beauty standards with spunk, subversive wit, and irrepressible pizzazz, *FUNNY GIRL* also probes the darker sides of fame, examining the sacrifices we make for success and the sometimes self-destructive lure of romance. Though the original 1964 stage production and subsequent 1968 film propelled Barbra Streisand to instant stardom, the musical that commemorates the history and glamour of the Ziegfeld Follies is rarely revived. The Segal Centre's revisionist revival, from the thrilling imagination of Director Peter Hinton, will revel in all that was lovely and lavish about Broadway and vaudeville's finest hour, but also explore the complexities of the performer's soul and the costs we all incur for being "people who need people."

OF FUNNY GIRL, HINTON SAYS:

"This has for a long time been a dream project as I love the show and the story of Fanny Brice. It's a great theatre story, which I think audiences will love too."

I am excited by doing the show in the intimate theatre at The Segal, where more of the sweat and grease-paint of Fanny's world can be brought to life. I want to return the show to the conception of a memory play, where the past and present are "haunting" Fanny. I am envisioning the entire show taking place in a kind of ruined Broadway theatre of the 20's... all in the memory of Fanny Brice. The ghosts who haunt Fanny's mind will play all the characters of her story... actual numbers from shows will all play out to challenge and provoke Fanny to decide who she might be "now". It's an ambitious and intriguing premise."

- Peter Hinton

ABOUT PETER HINTON, OC

Peter Hinton is an award winning playwright, director and dramaturge. From 2005-2012, he was Artistic Director of English Theatre at Canada's National Arts Centre in Ottawa. Peter Hinton's seven-year tenure at the NAC was renowned for the first all Canadian Season of new plays, the re-instatement of a resident NAC Acting Company and, in 2007, his partnership with Britain's Royal Shakespeare Company to co-produce Margaret Atwood's *Penelopiad*. Mr. Hinton was Associate Artist at The Stratford Festival for seven seasons, directing *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Shakespeare's Universe*, *The Odyssey*, *Fanny Kemble*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Into the Woods*, and all three parts of his own verse trilogy entitled *The Swanee*. He was also Associate Artistic Director for both The Canadian Stage Company and Theatre Passe Muraille in Toronto. Recently Peter directed the acclaimed production of *Pygmalion* at the Shaw Festival. For the Segal Centre, he directed *A Night in*

CREATIVE TEAM

MUSIC
JULE STYNE

LYRICS
BOB MERRILL

BOOK
ISOBEL LENNART

FROM AN ORIGINAL STORY BY
MISS LENNART

PRODUCED FOR THE BROADWAY
STAGE BY
RAY STARK

NEW YORK PRODUCTION
SUPERVISED BY
JEROME ROBBINS

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION
DIRECTED BY
GARSON KANIN
DIRECTED BY
PETER HINTON

MUSICAL DIRECTION
ALLEN COLE

ASSOCIATE MUSICAL DIRECTOR
NICK BURGESS

CHOREOGRAPHY
DAYNA TEKATCH

SET & COSTUME DESIGN
MICHAEL GIANFRANCESCO

LIGHTING DESIGN
BONNIE BEECHER

SOUND
PETER BALOV

November by Marie Jones, *Buried Child* by Sam Shepard and his own adaptation of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*. A respected teacher, Mr. Hinton has taught play creation for actors at the Ryerson Theatre School and playwriting and period study at The National Theatre School of Canada. He was twice awarded the Audrey Ashley Award for outstanding contribution to theatre in Ottawa, was the 2012 English recipient of the National Theatre School of Canada's Gascon/Thomas Award for significant achievement in Canadian Theatre, and in 2009, was named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

A STELLAR ALL-CANADIAN CAST

Hinton directs an 18-member cast, featuring **Gabi Epstein, Corrine Koslo, John Ulyatt, Lorne Kennedy & Kyle Golemba**.

Eric Abel, Chris Barillaro, Jenni Burke, Michael Challenger, Nicko Giannakos, Alexia Gourd, Will Lamond, Danette MacKay, Adele MacKenzie, George Masswohl, Kathleen McAuliffe, Felicia Shulman, Amanda Struthman round off this dream cast.

The creative team includes **Allen Cole** (Musical Direction), **Nick Burgess** (Associate Musical Director) **Dayna Tekatch** (Choreography), **Michael Gianfrancesco** (Set & Costumes), **Bonnie Beecher** (Lighting), and **Peter Balov** (Sound).

Artistic Director of the Segal Centre, Lisa Rubin, says, "50 years after its original production we are ecstatic to bring this legendary musical to our stage. Audiences will get a glimpse into the world of Fanny Brice like they've never seen before. We are thrilled to welcome this incredible creative team and cast, and especially Gabi Epstein whose voice had me nearly fall off my chair at her audition. With an extraordinary creative team, an all-star Canadian cast, and with Peter Hinton at its helm, the reimagining of this classic tailored to fit the Segal stage will surprise, delight and move audiences of all ages."

A NOSTALGIC JOURNEY FULL OF MUSIC, DANCE AND ROMANCE

Star of the stage, Fanny Brice sits in her dressing room, backstage of the New Amsterdam theatre, contemplating the bumpy road that led her to Follies fame. It's an ominous night: her husband the beautiful bad-boy, Nick Arnstein is being released from prison, and their future together is unclear. Memories and music flood Fanny's dressing room, as scenes from her past are magically brought back to life.

With humble roots on the Lower East Side, Fanny is regularly teased for her outsized stage ambitions and her less-than-stellar looks. Insisting she's "a bagel on a plate full of onion rolls" Fanny decides that if you can't fit in the chorus line, you have to stridently step out of it. She starts making a name for herself as a powerful songstress and clever comedienne and eventually gets tapped for the biggest show in town, the Ziegfeld Follies.

After finally gaining the fame and acclaim she so desperately sought, Fanny realizes "you can't take an audience home with you" and goes after love and marriage in the arms of a betting man, Nick Arnstein. But when she discovers that her husband's dealings may be shadier than she thought, Fanny has to decide how much she's willing to risk for love.

ABOUT THE SEGAL CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

The Segal Centre for Performing Arts is a not-for-profit theatre company dedicated to nurturing, producing and presenting world-class English-language theatre, and to showcasing the best professional artists from Montreal and beyond. Founded in 1967, the Segal Centre has expanded to become a nationally recognized venue for the performing arts with a focus on creation, innovation, diversity and cross-cultural collaborations. Driven by a belief in the power of the arts to strengthen and connect communities, the Segal's programming emphasizes original interpretations of popular classic and contemporary works, new Canadian musicals and engaging productions with universal appeal. www.segalcentre.org

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For Interviews and media inquiries:

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FUNNY GIRL

TICKETS & SHOWS

Tickets: \$32 - \$64
514.739.7944
www.segalcentre.org

PERFORMANCES

October 11 – November 8, 2015

PREVIEWS

October 11 – 14, 2015

OPENING NIGHT

October 15, 2015

REGULAR RUN

Mondays – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday – Saturday – 8:00 p.m.
(closed Fridays)
Sunday – 7:00 p.m.

MATINÉES

Wednesday, October 21, 28 – 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 18, 25
& November 1, 8 – 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: 5170 chemin de la Côte-
Ste-Catherine,
Montreal, H3W 1M7

Metro: Côte-Ste-Catherine, Snowdon
Bus: 129, 51, 17

GO BEYOND THE STAGE!

Discover one of the many fun and enriching SEGAL+ offerings around the production

Sunday @ The Segal

An enriching pre-show lecture series
Sunday, October 11 – 11:00 a.m.
In the Segal Theatre

Guest: Peter Hinton, Director
Entrance is free

Monday Night Talkbacks

Interact with the creators of the play
after the curtain goes down
Monday, October 19, 26 & November 2

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BEHIND THE SCENES!

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