

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Westport Country Playhouse Announces Fairfield County Young Artists Participating in April 17 Livestream Event with Tony Award® Winner Kelli O'Hara

Westport Country Playhouse announces the randomly selected Fairfield County, Connecticut, high school students who will participate in "Getting to Know You: A Celebration of Young Artists," hosted by Tony Award®-winning Broadway star Kelli O'Hara, on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m., on the Playhouse YouTube channel and Facebook Live.

During the virtual showcase, the students will have the opportunity to share their experiences with O'Hara and perform a musical theater selection. Mark Lamos, Playhouse artistic director, will introduce the program.

"We are thrilled that so many students from across Fairfield County signed up to be a part of this unique event," said Jenny Nelson, Playhouse director of education and community outreach. "Twenty talented students will participate in this first event and, hopefully, there will be many more shows to come."

High school students from across Fairfield County prepared, filmed, and submitted videos of songs, many of which they had hoped to perform in school musicals this spring. Ten participants and ten understudies were selected at random.

All videos submitted as part of the entry process will be compiled into a supercut shared at the end of the program and on Playhouse social media channels.

The 10 featured young artists who will showcase their talents are:

Emily Araujo, 17, Norwalk, Norwalk High School
Momo Burns-Min, 18, Weston, Weston High School
Camille Foisie, 16, Westport, Staples High School
Kelly Fox, 18, Stamford, Westhill High School
Ryan Lynn, 17, Wilton, Wilton High School
Emma Rimerman, 17, Stamford, Westhill High School
Emily Rooney, 16, Norwalk, Center for Global Studies (Brien McMahon High School)
Luke Ryan, 15, Darien, Darien High School
Ana Rosa Sforza, 16, Norwalk, Norwalk High School
Ella Therriault, 17, Southport, Fairfield Ludlowe High School

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The 10 understudies who will submit a question for O'Hara to answer during the show, and, if necessary, step in to perform at a moment's notice are:

Alex Arnold, 14, New Canaan, New Canaan High School

Sarah Chute, 15, Norwalk, Brien McMahon High School

Antonio Hernandez, 17, Norwalk, Brien McMahon High School

Joelle Singer Jensen, 16, Greenwich, Greenwich High School

Jamie Mann, 16, Westport, Staples High School

Robert Marcinauskis, 17, Shelton, Shelton High School

Ella Miller, 16, Trumbull, Trumbull High School

Jessica Olexy, 16, Bethel, Bethel High School

Amanda Robertson, 15, New Canaan, New Canaan High School

Sabrina Spraggins, 14, Newtown, Newtown High School and Regional Center for the Arts (RCA)

To access the livestream on April 17, visit westportplayhouse.org, go to bottom of the homepage, and click on the Facebook or YouTube icons.

During the event, tax-deductible donations to the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Playhouse will be accepted.

As a special thanks to all of the high school students who submitted videos, the Playhouse has created a Facebook group, Playhouse Young Artists, as a place to connect, share audition tips, discuss onstage experiences, ask for advice, and more.

"With such an overwhelming response from our community, it's clear that the students have a great need to express themselves through the arts, and Westport Country Playhouse is committed to providing artistic and educational resources during this difficult time," said Nelson.

Support for the event is from Bankwell, 2019-2020 Family Programming Sponsor.

For Westport Country Playhouse information, visit westportplayhouse.org, leave a message on the box office voicemail at (203) 227-4177, or email at boxoffice@westportplayhouse.org. The Playhouse's physical box office is closed during the pandemic, but staff is working from home, returning phone messages and answering emails. Please understand with the high volume of inquiries, it may take up to a week to respond. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

ABOUT WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

The mission of Westport Country Playhouse is to enrich, enlighten, and engage the community through the power of professionally produced theater of the highest caliber and the welcoming experience of the Playhouse campus. The not-for-profit Playhouse provides this experience in multiple ways by offering live theater experiences of the highest quality, under the artistic direction of Mark Lamos; educational and community engagement events to further explore the work on stage; the New Works Initiative, a program dedicated to the discovery, development, and production of new live theatrical works; special performances and programs for students and teachers with extensive curriculum support material; Script in Hand play readings to deepen relationships with audiences and artists; the renowned Woodward Internship Program during the summer months for aspiring theater professionals; Family Festivities presentations to delight young and old alike and to promote reading through live theater; youth performance training through Broadway Method Academy, Westport Country Playhouse's resident conservatory program; and the beautiful and historic Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round. Charity Navigator has recently awarded its top 4-star charity rating to the Playhouse in recognition of its strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

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