

# WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Westport Country Playhouse Launches New Series “From Concept to Curtain”**

#### **Premiere episode starting Feb. 4 will go behind-the-scenes of “In the Heights”**

Westport Country Playhouse will launch “From Concept to Curtain,” a virtual documentary series of 30-minute films offering a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process of putting together a Playhouse production, starting in February.

The premiere episode will be “In the Heights: Beyond el Barrio,” beginning Thursday, February 4, at noon, on the Playhouse’s website ([westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org)) and Youtube channel (WestportPlayhouse), free-of-charge.

Host is Marcos Santana, director and choreographer of the Playhouse’s 2019 production of “In the Heights.” Santana performed on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning show, with music and lyrics by “Hamilton’s” Lin-Manuel Miranda and book by Quiara Alegria Hudes.

“In the Heights: Beyond el Barrio” will explore mounting the Playhouse production through interviews with members of the creative team: Adam Koch, set design; Fabian Fidel Aguilar, costume design; María-Cristina Fusté, lighting design; and Daniel Green, music director. They will discuss their inspirations, the challenges they faced, what they would have done differently, and their favorite moment from the show, among other inside scoops. The video includes short clips from the Playhouse production.

Marcos Santana, who wrote and directed the video “In the Heights: Beyond el Barrio,” in addition to hosting, was born and raised in Puerto Rico. According to Santana, he will never forget the first time he was introduced to the show. “In 2006, I was booked in a workshop of ‘In the Heights,’ a brand-new, Broadway-bound, Latinx show. When I heard the Latin rhythms and ‘lights up on Washington Heights,’ for the first time in a very long time in my career, I felt like I was home.”

Santana also choreographed Westport Country Playhouse’s “Man of La Mancha” in 2018. His Broadway credits include Tony Award nominations as associate choreographer for “On Your Feet!” and “Rocky.”

The video is dedicated in loving memory of Doreen Montalvo (1963-2020), who played Camila in the Playhouse production of “In the Heights.” Video credits: Marcos Santana, writer/director; David

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#### **WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE**

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Dreyfoos, associate producer/director of production; RJ Romeo, technical director/associate director of production; Stephen Emerick, editing; and Cynthia Astmann, titles and graphic design.

More videos in the “From Concept to Curtain” series on the Playhouse’s website and YouTube channel will be announced soon.

Due to the global pandemic, the Playhouse campus remains closed since last March. The 2021 Season is scheduled to begin in April, online and in-person. Playhouse management will be following the science and the State of Connecticut Department of Health guidelines in deciding when and how to safely open its buildings to the public.

For Westport Country Playhouse information, visit [westportplayhouse.org](http://westportplayhouse.org), leave a message on the box office voicemail at (203) 227-4177, or email at [boxoffice@westportplayhouse.org](mailto: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 72 hours 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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