

WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

MARK LAMOS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | MICHAEL BARKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Patricia Blaufuss, Public Relations Manager
(203) 227-5137 x197 | (203) 571-1287 | pblaufuss@westportplayhouse.org

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Westport Country Playhouse Offers Essential Workers Complimentary Tickets to Attend Concerts Taped for National TV

First responders, frontline workers, teachers, and community groups are invited to be part of the live audience for *Stars on Stage*, featuring Broadway talents

A limited number of complimentary tickets are available for first responders, frontline workers, teachers, and community groups to attend *Stars on Stage from Westport Country Playhouse*, three nights of in-person concerts by Broadway artists Shoshana Bean (*Wicked*, *Waitress*) on Tuesday, August 31; Gavin Creel (*Hello, Dolly!*, *The Book of Mormon*) on Wednesday, September 1; and Brandon Victor Dixon (NBC's *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Hamilton*) on Thursday, September 2. There will be two one-hour performances each evening, at 7 and 9 p.m., taped before a live audience for future national television broadcast.

For complimentary tickets, eligible persons may contact Jennifer Carroll, Westport Country Playhouse community and sales manager, at jcarroll@westportplayhouse.org.

"We are so happy to offer complimentary tickets to frontline workers for these events as a small gesture of thanks for everything that they have done and continue to do to keep our community safe, healthy, and supported in these ever-changing times," said Carroll.

In addition to the complimentary tickets for first responders, frontline workers, teachers, and community groups, tickets are on sale for the general public starting at \$20. All Playhouse visitors must provide proof of their Covid-19 vaccination to attend any performance or event at the Playhouse. For updates on Covid-19 health and safety protocols at the Playhouse, visit <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/visit/covid19safety/>

Andrew C. Wilk is the creator and executive producer of *Stars on Stage from Westport Country Playhouse*. Donald Thoms and Annette Jolles also will produce, and Jolles and Wilk will serve as directors of the three programs.

Sponsors of *Stars on Stage from Westport Country Playhouse* are Roz and Bud Siegel, Judy and Scott Phares, Eunice and David Bigelow, Kate and Bob Devlin, Anna Czekaj-Farber, Joyce Hergenhan, Mary Ellen and Jim Marpe, Christian J. and Eva Trefz, and Stacy and Howard Bass.

Westport Country Playhouse's 2021 Season Sponsor is the Eunice and David Bigelow Foundation. 2021 Season Media Sponsors are Moffly Media and WSHU Public Radio.

The Playhouse's 2021 Season is underway with two upcoming HD video productions from the Playhouse archives streaming on-demand: the musical, *Man of La Mancha* (2018), from August 23

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25 POWERS COURT WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE T (203) 227-5137 F 203.221.7482 | BOX OFFICE T (203) 227-4177 F (203) 454-3238

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through September 5, and John Steinbeck's classic drama *Of Mice and Men* (2008), from September 13 through 26. Both are directed by Mark Lamos, Playhouse artistic director. *Doubt: A Parable*, the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning drama written by John Patrick Shanley and directed by David Kennedy, Playhouse associate artistic director, will be staged in person, November 2 through November 20, and also filmed for streaming at home. Script in Hand playreadings will be on October 4 - 10, and December 14 – 19, titles TBA. All virtual content in the Playhouse's 2021 season will be available on demand for patrons' convenience, with captions in both English and Spanish translation. The complete schedule is available at westportplayhouse.org.

All play titles, artists, dates, times, and formats are subject to change.

For *Stars on Stage from Westport Country Playhouse* tickets and information, visit <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/show/starsaudience/>, call (203) 227-4177, or email at boxoffice@westportplayhouse.org. Stay connected to the Playhouse on Facebook (Westport Country Playhouse), follow on Twitter (@WCPlayhouse), and on YouTube (WestportPlayhouse).

ABOUT WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

Founded in 1931, Westport Country Playhouse is celebrating its 90th anniversary year. 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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