



**Three New Concert Specials
STARS ON STAGE
FROM WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE
Premiere Fridays, January 7-21, 2022 on PBS and PBS.org**

**PBS Celebrates Live Performance with Broadway Stars Gavin Creel,
Shoshana Bean and Brandon Victor Dixon**



*Left to right: Gavin Creel, Shoshana Bean, Brandon Victor Dixon.
Credit: Carol Rosegg*

ARLINGTON, VA, December 7, 2021 – Join three Broadway favorites for **STARS ON STAGE FROM WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE**, three new concert specials headlined by Tony and Olivier Award-winner **Gavin Creel**, Billboard #1 recording artist **Shoshana Bean**, and Tony, Emmy and Grammy Award-nominee **Brandon Victor Dixon**. Filmed live at the historic Westport Country Playhouse in Connecticut, these concerts feature three of Broadway’s most versatile and virtuosic artists performing iconic showstoppers, telling intimate stories and dazzling audiences with an extraordinary repertoire of classic and contemporary songs. **STARS ON STAGE FROM WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE** premieres on consecutive Fridays, January 7-21, 2022, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET ([check local listings](#)) on PBS, [PBS.org](#) and the [PBS Video app](#).

“We have assembled an incredible lineup for the series, which features three leading voices of musical theatre in a beautifully intimate setting. Gavin Creel, Shoshana Bean and Brandon Victor Dixon light up the stage of Westport Country Playhouse, and we can’t wait for millions of viewers to experience their phenomenal talents on the singular platform that is PBS,” said Series Creator and Executive Producer Andrew C. Wilk.

"PBS is delighted to celebrate the return of musical performance with these three new concert specials," said Director, PBS Programming and Development Zara Frankel. "There's nothing quite like the excitement of live performance and sharing that experience has always been central to our mission, now more than ever. As America's largest stage, PBS is thrilled to offer viewers front-row seats to these concerts as part of our ongoing commitment to the arts."

STARS ON STAGE FROM WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE episodes are scheduled as below:

"Gavin Creel" – Friday, January 7

Gavin Creel blazed onto Broadway in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and instantly became one of the theater's favorite leading men, with starring roles in *Hello, Dolly!*, *She Loves Me*, *Hair* and more. Now, the Tony and Olivier Award-winner brings humor, heart and irresistible charm to an intimate evening of story and song. Kicking off with a celebratory "Lulu's Back in Town," Creel continues to shine with performances of "Something's Coming" from *West Side Story*, Sondheim's "Another Hundred People," and a stirring rendition of "I Have Confidence," connecting the songs to his life and personal journey. Other selections include "Unfinished World," one of 16 songs written by Creel for *Walk on Through*, a project commissioned by New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and their first live performance since March 2020. Directed by Andrew C. Wilk, with long-time Creel collaborator Mary-Mitchell Campbell as Music Director.

"Shoshana Bean" – Friday, January 14

From her starring roles in Broadway's *Wicked* and *Waitress* to her chart-topping Billboard recordings, Shoshana Bean has captivated audiences worldwide. In this concert special, she unleashes her passion and powerhouse vocals with a dazzlingly diverse selection of songs, including tributes to her idols Barbra Streisand ("People," "Evergreen," "Before the Parade Passes By" and more) and Whitney Houston ("I Wanna Dance with Somebody"). Bean performs some of her own original songs, including "1995," and is joined by special guests Avery Wilson for "All to Me" and Luke Edgemon and Melanie Nyema on "Quittin' Time." She closes with "She Used to Be Mine" a song from her role as Jenna in *Waitress*. Directed by Annette Jolles with David Cook as Music Director.

"Brandon Victor Dixon" – Friday, January 21

Brandon Victor Dixon has electrified television audiences with his performances in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Rent: Live* and also starred in numerous Broadway shows including *Hamilton*, *The Color Purple* and *Motown: The Musical*. In this rousing new concert special, the Tony, Emmy and Grammy nominee brings his stunning vocals and signature artistry to a celebration of Broadway, classic pop and soul. Featured are songs made famous by several of Dixon's personal favorites including Marvin Gaye ("Mercy Mercy Me"), Donny Hathaway ("A Song for You") and Stevie Wonder ("Heaven Help Us All"). Other highlights include a soaring rendition of Stephen Sondheim's "Being

Alive” and Dixon’s original song, “Maybe.” Featuring guest vocalists Crystal Monee Hall, Kristina Nicole Miller and Anastasia Talley. Directed by Annette Jolles with Michael O. Mitchell as Music Director.

STARS ON STAGE FROM WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE will stream simultaneously with broadcast and be available on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS Video app](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO.

Andrew Carl Wilk is the series creator. Executive producers are Andrew Carl Wilk, Annette Jolles and Donald H. Thoms. Executive in Charge for PBS is Zara Frankel. “Gavin Creel” is directed by Andrew Carl Wilk, with Mary-Mitchell Campbell as Music Director. “Shoshana Bean” is directed by Annette Jolles with David Cook as Music Director. “Brandon Victor Dixon” is directed by Annette Jolles with Michael O. Mitchell as Music Director. Set Design by Travis George. Lighting Design by Alan Adelman.

Major support for **STARS ON STAGE FROM WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE** is provided by Roz and Bud Siegel, Judy and Scott Phares, Eunice and David Bigelow, Kate and Bob Devlin with additional funding provided by Joyce Hergenhan, Anna Czekaj-Farber, Mary Ellen and Jim Marpe, Christian J. and Eva Trefz, and Stacy and Howard Bass.

About Westport Country Playhouse

Founded in 1931, 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; and the beautiful and historic Playhouse campus open for enjoyment and community events year-round.

About PBS

[PBS](https://www.pbs.org), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 120 million people through television and 26 million people online, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; to hear diverse viewpoints; and to take front row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS’s broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry’s most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through

12th grade turn to PBS for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. Decades of research confirms that PBS's premier children's media service, PBS KIDS, helps children build critical literacy, math and social-emotional skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality educational content on TV— including a 24/7 channel, online at pbskids.org, via an array of mobile apps and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at www.pbs.org, one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, or by following [PBS on Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at pbs.org/pressroom or by following [PBS Communications on Twitter](#).

– PBS –

CONTACTS:

Meredith Wohl, PBS, mawohl@pbs.org

Cara White / Mary Lugo, CaraMar, Inc.
cara.white@mac.com; lugo@negia.net

For images and additional up-to-date information on this and other PBS programs, visit PBS PressRoom at pbs.org/pressroom.