Bellevue’s Sarah Rose Davis Lands Starring Role as Fanny Brice in Village Theatre’s *Funny Girl*

**Issaquah Tickets on Sale Now.**

**Everett Tickets on Sale May 7, 2014.**

**ISSAQUAH, WA** – Life imitates art as Bellevue’s own gutsy musical theatre starlet, **Sarah Rose Davis**, lands the coveted role of plucky Fanny Brice in the Tony Award Winning musical *Funny Girl*. This role shot Barbra Streisand’s career into the stratosphere back in 1964, and now all eyes turn to **Sarah Rose Davis** for the 2014 Village Theatre revival. Fanny Brice is *Funny Girl*, the irrepressible comedienne, Vaudeville star, and one of the most celebrated entertainers of her time. This semi-autobiographical musical is based on Fanny’s life, career, and stormy relationship with professional gambler and con artist Nick Arnstein. It includes favorite tunes “Don’t Rain on My Parade,” “People,” and “You Are Woman, I Am Man,” and is packed with all the glamour and glitz of the Ziegfeld Follies. Village Theatre’s production showcases over 180 dazzling costumes and countless scene changes spanning over four decades.

**Julia Franz** is the master scenic artist tasked with bringing Bill Forrester’s stunning set design to the Village Theatre stage. Remarkably, this is **Julia’s 100th** production with Village Theatre and her first production was also *Funny Girl*, also directed by Steve Tomkins and designed by Bill Forrester, back in the spring of 1994. At a time when many theatre companies are converting to printed set drops, **Julia** remains dedicated to keeping the lost art of hand-painted sets, drops and floors alive. As Julia will tell you, “hand-painting allows for more control and flexibility in our work. What we do is an art form and with the human hand we can achieve a visual aspect that a computer printout simply can’t.”

The cast that will have the pleasure of singing and dancing among Julia’s hand-painted set includes: **Sarah Rose Davis** (Village, Trails; 5th Ave. *Spamalot*) as Fanny Brice, **Logan Benedict** as Nick Arnstein; **Bobbi**
Kotula as Ms. Brice; Don Collins as Florenz Ziegfeld; Chelsea Lynne Myers as Emma; Jayne Muirhead as Mrs. Strakosh; John Scott as Eddie Ryan; Jonathan Lee-Vroman as Tom Keeney; Laura Abel as Mrs. O’Malley and Rachel Wilkie as Mrs. Meeker.

Ensemble performers are; Eric Bayne, Blaine Boyd, Sean Calavan, Ethan Carpenter, Gabriel Corey, Bo Mellinger, Mallory King, Trina Mills, Taylor Niemeyer, Becca Orts, Alana Peters, Connor Russell, Mara Solar, Adam Somers, and Katy Tabb.

As mentioned previously, Steve Tomkins will direct Funny Girl and together Tim Symons and Bruce Monroe will serve as co-music directors (original music by Jule Styne, lyrics by Bob Merrill.) Bill Forrester is the scenic designer, Karen Ann Ledger is the costume designer, Aaron Copp is the lighting designer and Kristin Holland is the choreographer. Brent Warwick is the sound designer and Monique Walker is the properties master. Brandon Ivie is the assistant director and Brenda K. Walker stage manages.

About Village Theatre
Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining, quality productions for the entire family since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region’s best-attended Equity theatres, with over 18,400 Subscribers and 183,000 projected total attendance each season. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having launched over 130 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow’s audiences through its youth education programs, Pied Piper and KIDSTAGE, serving over 54,000 young people, families, and schools annually.

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