



**Village Theatre’s New Works Program, Village Originals
Slaps on Their Spandex and Prepares to Stage a
Beta Production of
*MISS STEP***

A New Musical by Kit Yan and Melissa Li

Directed and Co-Choreographed by Connor Gallagher

Co-Choreography by Jay Jackson “Laganja Estranja”

Music Directed Elisa Money

*A Developmental Production of a New Musical Running at Village Theatre’s
Hunt Family Theatre, Feb 11–19, 2023.*

SEATTLE, WA (February 1, 2023) – Village Theatre today announced its latest Village Originals Beta Production *MISS STEP*, a fun new musical comedy by **Kit Yan** and **Melissa Li**, the creative minds behind the musical *Interstate*. A throwback to the 80s, this heartfelt story follows Pam Carter, an unremarkable trans woman working as a toll collector on the New Jersey turnpike. When a family tragedy uncovers her late father’s secret passion for competitive aerobics, Pam decides to step into her father’s “sneakers” and vault herself on a remarkable journey.

“Melissa and I set out to write a big, joyous musical dance comedy that could work on and off-Broadway, and bring immense joy, entertainment and heart to our audiences,” said co-writer Kit Yan. “I think that Beta is really going to give us a true test to see if we have done that.”

In addressing themes of *MISS STEP*, co-writer Melissa Li added, “Trans people aren’t really afforded the ability to be unremarkable...We’re setting out to tell a story about someone who is sort of a ‘plain Jane,’ who then discovers, through something other than her transness, that she is kind of a remarkable person...It’s really joyful, that trans and gender diverse folks all get to dance, move, thrive, and survive.”

Associate Artistic Director Brandon Ivie said, “This is a refreshing show about trans joy. In a world where most mainstream trans stories are about trauma, this show is a raucous comedy, just letting trans people have fun and win; to be able to have full complete joy that is both all about their transness and not about their transness at the same time.”

This fully staged developmental production is directed and co-choreographed by **Connor Gallagher** (Choreographer for Broadway’s *Beetlejuice*) with co-choreography by **Jay Jackson “Laganja Estranja** (*RuPaul’s Drag Race* Season 6), and music direction by **Elisa Money**. It features scenic design by **Jason Sherwood** (Emmy winner: *RENT Live, Oscars 2020*), costume design by **Chelsea Cook** (*Cinderella*), lighting design by **Chih-Hung Shao**, sound design by **Erin Bednarz**, projection design by **Ahren Buhmann**, NY Casting by **Judy Bowman, CSA**, Dance Arrangements by **David Dabbon**, and gender consultation by



Josphine Kearns. *MISS STEP* is performing at Village Theatre’s Hunt Family Theatre in Issaquah Feb. 11–19, 2023. Tickets are available now through the Village Theatre Box Office at (425) 392-2202 or online at VillageTheatre.org/MissStep. *MISS STEP* has been supported and developed through Village Theatre’s Village Originals program.

Audiences are invited to provide feedback through select post-show talkbacks with the authors or through online surveys, becoming part of a new musical in development. Associate Artistic Director Brandon Ivie said, “*MISS STEP* is the perfect example of why this step in the process is so important. Audiences will see that *MISS STEP* does not live on the page, it lives on its feet and in space. And those audiences will give so much input on how to best tell this story. I think the show is going to make some huge strides because of this process.”

Co-writers Kit Yan and Melissa Li are available for interviews. As a developmental production, *MISS STEP* is not open to reviews.

ABOUT KIT YAN (CO-WRITER)

Kit Yan is a Yellow American transgender writer. Accolades: ASCAP Harold Adamson Lyric Award, Jonathan Larson Grant, Kleban Prize, and the Vivace Award. Their award-winning musicals have been seen on stages across America: they have written for Disney and are developing new work for theatre, TV, and film. Works: *Interstate* (East West Players, Mixed Blood), *Cancelled* (Keen Company), *Queer Heartache*. Their works have received support from Playwrights Horizons, MCC Theater, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, among others.

ABOUT MELISSA LI (CO-WRITER)

Melissa Yi is a composer, lyricist, performer, and writer based in New York City and Montreal. Accolades: ASCAP Harold Adamson Lyric Award, Kleban Prize, Jonathan Larson Award, Dramatists Guild Foundation Fellow, MacDowell Fellow. Musicals: *Again* (Theater Mu); *Interstate* (East West Players, Mixed Blood Theatre); *Cancelled* (Keen Company); *Surviving the Nian* (The Theater Offensive). Her works have received support from Playwrights Horizons, The 5th Avenue Theatre, MCC Theater, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival, among others.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Connor Gallagher | Director & Co-Choreographed
Jay Jackson “Laganja Estranja” | Co - Choreographer
Elisa Money | Music Director & Conductor
Jason Sherwood | Scenic Designer
Chih-Hung Shao | Lighting Designer
Ahren Buhmann | Projection Designer
Chelsea Cook | Costume Designer
Erin Bednarz | Sound Designer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Josephine Kearns | Gender Consultant
Judy Bowman, CSA | New York Casting
Jessamyn Bateman-Iino | Stage Manager
Kallen Pishue | Assistant Stage Manager

ABOUT THE CAST (in order of appearance)

Kathryn Van Meter | Gail
MJ Rawls | Pam Carter
Bobbi Kotula | Janet
Ethan Carpenter | Cameron Carter Sr
Cassi Q Kohl | Cindy
Bridgid Abrams | Rachel Weissman
Vincent Milay | Eli
Irene Rising | Pauline
Leah Sainz-Jones | Topaz
Tom Avery | Jay
Joel Domenico | Ensemble
Mackenzie Malhotra | Ensemble
Nehemiah Hooks | Ensemble
Tori Gresham | Ensemble

ABOUT VILLAGE THEATRE

Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, WA, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining, quality productions since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region’s best-attended theatres. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having supported the creation of over 175 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow’s audiences through its Youth Education programs, serving thousands of young people and their families annually.

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FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS

WHAT:

MISS STEP

A New Musical By Kit Yan and Melissa Li
Directed and Co-Choreographed by Connor Gallagher
Co-Choreography by Jay Jackson “Laganja Estranja”
Music Directed by Elisa Money

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Pam Carter is an unremarkable trans woman, working as a toll collector on the New Jersey turnpike. When a family tragedy uncovers her late father's secret passion for competitive aerobics, Pam decides to step into her father's sneakers and vault herself on a remarkable journey. This sweet, fun, 80's throwback musical is a comedy for family members of all ages and genders. So, slap on that spandex, throw on a headband, and get ready to clap your hands for MISS STEP!

WHERE:

Village Theatre

Hunt Family Theatre

120 Front St N, Issaquah, WA 98027

WHEN:

February 11-19, 2023

Saturday - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday - 7:30 p.m.

Friday - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday - 1:00 p.m.

TICKETS:

\$25-\$30 - ON SALE NOW

\$30 - General Admission

\$25 Youth/Senior

CONNECT WITH VILLAGE THEATRE

VillageTheatre.org

Facebook - [/VillageTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/VillageTheatre)

Instagram - [@village_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/village_theatre)

YouTube - [/villagetheatre1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvillagetheatre1)

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

For available photography and video, please visit Village Theatre's online [press room here >>](#)

VILLAGE THEATRE'S COVID SAFETY PLAN

For Village Theatre's most up-to-date COVID safety protocols, [please visit Village Theatre online here >>](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

press@villagetheatre.org