

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## She Risked It All for Love

Village Theatre Proudly Presents *Once on This Island*  
Dancing onto the Stage May 14-July 14, 2024

Book and Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS | Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY  
Directed and Choreographed by AMEENAH KAPLAN  
Music Directed by MICHAEL NUTTING

**ISSAQUAH, WA** (April 24, 2024) – A young peasant girl decides to risk it all for love in *Once on This Island*, the dance-filled musical with a Calypso-flavored score coming to Village Theatre in Issaquah from May 14 to June 16, 2024, and in Everett from June 22 to July 14, 2024.

This production is directed and choreographed by **Ameenah Kaplan**, the award-winning theater artist who is known locally for her direction of *Lydia and the Troll* and *The Royale*, and nationally as a show director for Disney Live Entertainment and choreographer for The Grammy Awards and “Dancing with the Stars.”

*Once on This Island*—set not so long ago in the Caribbean—tells the timeless story of Ti Moune, a fearless peasant girl who decides to risk it all for love. Guided by the mighty island gods, she sets out on a remarkable journey to the wealthy side of the island to reunite with the man who has captured her heart.

“*Once on This Island* is a special show to so many people from so many different walks of life. I think that’s a testament to good storytelling and the relatability of the human experience,” said Kaplan. “It’s a play about colorism written by non-POC that sits somewhere between fantasy and reality, that has a lesson to teach us all. I’m so happy people are listening.”

*Once on This Island* earned eight Tony nominations for its Broadway run, including Best Musical, Book, and Score. With a Calypso-flavored score from Tony Award-winning songwriters Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, *Once on This Island* is a captivating adaptation of the beloved Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale *The Little Mermaid*.

“*Once on This Island* has been one of my favorite musicals since I was a child,” said Village Theatre Artistic Director **Adam Immerwahr**. “A joyous and heart-achingly beautiful musical fable for audiences of all ages, it is no wonder that it has been a favorite on Broadway (twice!) and around the world. I can’t wait for it to sweep our audience away.”

The cast includes **Sydney Quildon** (Ti Moune), **Simone Alene** (Andrea, u/s Erzulie), **Marlette Buchanan** (Mama Euralie), **Kataka Corn** (Erzulie), **Jasmine Hall** (Little Ti Moune), **Jesimiel R. Jenkins** (Armand, u/s Agwe/Tonton), **Kelsey Scott** (Asaka), **Yusef D. Seevers** (Papa Ge), **Mariah Shriner** (Little Ti Moune), **Jesse Jonathan Smith Sr.** (Tonton Julian), **Chandler T. Thomas** (Agwe), and **Jeffery Wallace** (Daniel).

Understudies include **Brandi Birdsong** (u/s Mama Euralie, Papa Ge), **Sydney Rae Blosch** (u/s Andrea), **Nalica Hennings** (u/s Ti Moune), **Matt Lockett** (u/s Daniel, Armand), and **Aliyah Shines** (u/s Asaka).

Transforming Village's stage into the lush, colorful island are Set Designer **Bryce Cutler**, Costume Designer **Danielle Nieves**, Lighting Designer **Robert J. Aguilar**, Sound Designer **Robertson Witmer**, and Stage Manager **Jessica C. Bomball**.

The creative team also includes Associate Director **Bretteney Beverly**, Associate Choreographer **Amber Mayberry**, Associate Music Director **Rebecca Smith**, New York Casting Director **JZ Casting**, Associate Lighting Designer **Casey Price**, Intimacy Consultant **Moises "Moy" Hinojos**, Dialect Coach **Nathan Crocker**, Vocal Coach **Aaron M. Davis Norman**, and Keyboard Programming **Kevin Roland**.

Single tickets can be purchased now through Village Theatre's Box Office in-person in Issaquah (303 Front Street N) or Everett (2710 Wetmore Avenue), by phone at (425) 392-2202, or online at [VillageTheatre.org/Island](http://VillageTheatre.org/Island).

### **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:**

#### ***Once on This Island***

Book and Lyrics by LYNN AHRENS

Music by STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Based Upon the Novel "My Love, My Love" by ROSA GUY

Directed and Choreographed by AMEENAH KAPLAN

Music Directed by MICHAEL NUTTING

**WHERE:****Village Theatre**

Francis J. Gaudette Theatre  
303 Front Street N, Issaquah

Everett Performing Arts Center (EPAC)  
2710 Wetmore Avenue, Everett

**WHEN:****May 14–July 14, 2024**

Issaquah: May 14–June 16, 2024

Everett: June 22–July 14, 2024

**TICKETS:****\$53–\$115 - ON SALE NOW**For tickets and information >> [VillageTheatre.org/Island](https://VillageTheatre.org/Island)**CONNECT WITH VILLAGE THEATRE**[VillageTheatre.org](https://VillageTheatre.org)

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**PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO**

For available photography and video, please visit Village Theatre's online press room here &gt;&gt;

[VillageTheatre.org/press-room/](https://VillageTheatre.org/press-room/)**VILLAGE THEATRE'S COVID SAFETY PLAN**

Masks are optional for all Village Theatre performances in the 2023–2024 season. For Village Theatre's up-to-date health and safety protocols, please visit the Village Theatre website &gt;&gt;

[VillageTheatre.org/covid19/](https://VillageTheatre.org/covid19/)**FOR MORE INFORMATION**[press@villagetheatre.org](mailto:press@villagetheatre.org)