

## Village Theatre Announces Complete Casting for 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSICALS

**ISSAQUAH, WA** (July 1, 2025) – Village Theatre is thrilled to announce complete casting for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual **Festival of New Musicals**, which takes place August 8-10, 2025, at the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre in Issaquah, Wash. Casting for all four staged readings in the Festival includes local theater artists showcasing the vast wealth of talent in the Seattle area.

For the second year in a row, Village Theatre made admission free to the general public, and all free seats were reserved within days. Waitlists are available for all public Festival events, and seats will be released up to day-of-show based on availability.

“All of us at Village are thrilled to announce the exciting line-up of shows in this year’s Festival of New Musicals,” said **Artistic Director Adam Immerwahr**. “This year’s musicals demonstrate the enormous range of the genre, both in music and form. We can’t wait to share them with you as we all celebrate the future of our art form together.”

Village Originals has launched more than 180 new musicals into the universe, sending them across the country, to Broadway, and worldwide, and jumpstarting beloved hits like ***Million Dollar Quartet*** and the Pulitzer Prize-winning ***Next to Normal***.

**Managing Director Derek Watanabe** looks forward to the Festival every year. “It’s always exciting to see Front Street come alive with new musical lovers,” he said. “Whether you are a life-long musical theater nerd or a stage newbie, it’s a unique opportunity to witness a first-time performance and rub shoulders with the local and national performing arts community!”

Village Theatre’s 2025 Festival is sponsored by the Wilke Family Foundation and supported by a community of individual donors committed to investing in New Works.

### 2025 FESTIVAL SHOW INFORMATION

#### ***Lewis Loves Clark***

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 7:30 p.m.**

Book and lyrics by **Mike Ross**, Music by **Dylan MarcAurele**

Directed by Adam Immerwahr

Music Directed by Nathan Young

#### **CAST**

**Ethan Carpenter** (William Clark), **Charlie Johnson** (Meriwether Lewis), **Mackenzie Neusiok** (Sacagawea), **T.J. Newton** (Ten Bears/Cameahwait), **Matt Posner** (Thomas Jefferson/Carbonneau), **Gerald Germajesty Price** (York), and ensemble members **Miranda Antoinette**, **Cammi Smith**, **Evan Ponyah**, and **Jason Weitkamp**

*Lewis Loves Clark* is a funny, fast-paced epic about the famous Corps of Discovery expedition. Combining bluegrass, folk, and pop, this tragicomedy follows Meriwether Lewis (a depressed closeted alcoholic), William

Clark (just breathtakingly oblivious), Sacagawea (permanently exasperated), and York (would rather be birdwatching) as they grapple with the not-so-great unknown. There is also a cute stuffed dog.

*Lewis Loves Clark* was presented at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's Festival of New Musicals in 2024. [namt.org](http://namt.org)  
Developed in part at the Barn on Fire Residency, a program of New York Theatre Barn and the Fire Island Pines Art Project

## ***Dear Mr. C***

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2:00 p.m.**

Book, Music, and Additional Lyrics by **Tidtaya Sinutoke**

Lyrics by **Lily Ali-Oshatz** and **Naomi Matlow**

Directed by Keng S. Meateanuwat

Music Directed by R.J. Tancioco

### **CAST**

**Alegria Batara** (The Writer) and ensemble members **Candice Song Donehoo**, **Diana Huey**, and **Danny Kam**

*Dear Mr. C* is an intimate, verbatim, indie-pop memoir with a hint of traditional Thai lullaby that tells the story of a Thai writer who's trying to find peace after one phone call from Thailand turns her world upside-down.

## ***Jet City Improv presents: An Improvised Musical!***

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 5:00 p.m.**

You bring the title—we bring the show. With Broadway in our hearts and chaos in our hands, the cast creates a fully improvised musical right before your eyes. No script. No plan. Every word, step, and note is made up on the spot—raw, fearless, and on fire.

From show-stopping numbers to wild twists, this is musical theater like you've never seen before.

One night only. One chance to witness the magic. Don't miss it.

## ***The Goree All-Girl String Band***

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 8:00 p.m.**

Book and Lyrics by **Jenny Stafford**

Music and Lyrics by **Artie Sievers**

Story by **Ashley Monroe**, **Artie Sievers**, and **Jenny Stafford**

Directed by Ashley Brooke Monroe

Music Directed by Elisa Money

### **CAST**

**Andi Alhadeff** (Burma), **Anne Allgood** (Mrs. Heath), **Anabel Chacon** (Ruby Mae), **Harter Clingman** (Nelson), **Sarah Rose Davis** (Reable), **Eric Polani Jensen** (Captain Heath), **Cassi Q Kohl** (Mozelle), **Hannah Schuerman** (Bonnie), **Jasmine Jean Sim** (Jerry Lee), and **Jeffery Wallace** (Paul)

The year is 1938, and The Goree All-Girl String Band is the biggest new radio sensation in Texas. They also happen to be convicted criminals. The six band members teach themselves music from behind bars and earn a

slot on a prison-based radio program. Through sisterhood, determination, and a little bit of luck, these women work (and play) together to fiddle their way to freedom. Inspired by a true story, *The Goree All-Girl String Band* is a tale of redemption with echoes of modern-day questions about women's prisons.

## ***Legendale***

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2:00 p.m.**

Music by **Andrea Daly**

Book & Lyrics by **Jeff Bienstock**

Story by **Bienstock and Daly**

Directed by Kathryn Van Meter

Music Directed by David Taylor Gomes

### **CAST**

**Drew Bates** (Fanboy and others), **Christopher Clark** (Steve, Tarragon, and others), **Lucas Delamarter** (Newbie and others), **Nick DeSantis** (Paul Jansen, Alchemist, and others), **Ays Garcia** (Beth), **Alexander Kilian** (Andy Kaniff), **Andrew Knickerbocker** (Sir Sarcasm and others), **Ellen McLain** (Voiceover), and **Lauren Paris** (Zelayna/Cow Maiden)

Andy only feels alive when he's online playing "Legendale," the most epic role-playing video game of the 2010's. After a series of misfortunes pushes him to the edge of despair, an unassuming milkmaid offers him a road to rediscovering his inner warrior. *Legendale* explores adventure, romance, and the power of fantasy, in a musical comedy that reminds us how to feel alive. Spunky, funny, and full of heart, *Legendale* is for grown-ups (and aspiring grown-ups), and anybody who wants to remember that between the grind of work and stress of life, we all deserve a little 'play.'

### **ABOUT VILLAGE THEATRE**

Based in Issaquah, Wash., with operations in Everett, Wash., Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theater in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining, quality productions since 1979, Village has grown into one of the region's best-attended theatres. Village is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having supported the creation of more than 180 new works to date; and also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its Youth Education programs, serving thousands of young people and their families annually.

###

### **FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS**

#### **WHAT: The Festival of New Musicals**

Don't miss your chance to see the next big musical hit at Village Theatre's annual Festival of New Musicals! Join this theatrically packed weekend to enjoy stage readings of brand-new works from some of the nation's brightest musical theater creators, presented in collaboration with some of the Seattle area's finest performers to create the future of America's most extraordinary art form.

Village Originals has launched more than 180 new musicals into the universe, sending them across the country, to Broadway, and worldwide. The Festival jumpstarted Broadway favorites like *Million Dollar Quartet* and *Next to Normal*.

**WHERE:**

Village Theatre  
Francis J. Gaudette Theatre  
303 Front Street N, Issaquah

**WHEN:**

August 8-10, 2025

**TICKETS:**

Free and open to the public  
Seats must be reserved in advance

For waitlist information >> [VillageTheatre.org/Festival](https://VillageTheatre.org/Festival)

**CONNECT WITH VILLAGE THEATRE**

**[VillageTheatre.org](https://VillageTheatre.org)**

Facebook - [/VillageTheatre](https://VillageTheatre)

Instagram - [@village\\_theatre](https://village_theatre)

YouTube - [/villagetheatre1](https://villagetheatre1)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[press@villagetheatre.org](mailto:press@villagetheatre.org)

###