



Producers Associates Announces 2014 Woodminster Summer Musicals

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PRESS RELEASE (For immediate release)

Woodminster Summer Musicals 2014: Les Misérables, Catch Me If You Can, Flower Drum Song. Organization's 48th Season in Woodminster Amphitheater Includes 2 New Shows and a Familiar Favorite

Auditions at Woodminster Amphitheater March 22-23

February 3, 2014, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates, Inc. announces that the 48th Season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals will include Les Misérables, Catch Me If You Can, and Flower Drum Song.

Says Harriet Schlader, Managing Director for the summer theater, "This year, we're producing two shows we've never done before, and in fact all three shows are relatively new in the history of American Musical Theater. Les Misérables was originally produced in the 80's, but hasn't been available for regional theaters for very long, and this is our first chance to produce it. Catch Me If You Can really is brand-new; it just opened on Broadway 3 years ago. And Flower Drum Song, the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic from the 50's, was updated in 2002 with David Henry Hwang's new script. When we did the show in 2004, we were the first Bay Area theater to stage this new version. Our audiences were enthusiastic then, and have told us they'd like to see it again."

Les Misérables will open the season, with performances July 11-20. This pop opera is a wildly popular stage adaptation of the classic Victor Hugo novel, an epic story told in the musical through thrilling song and dramatic staging. It had over 7,000 performances on Broadway and over 10,000 in London, has had several successful tours, and is starting a new Broadway run (its third) in 2014. Performances of Les Misérables at Woodminster are July 11 (opening), July 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20, all at 8 p.m.

Catch Me If You Can, the second show in the Woodminster season, will be performed August 8-17. Based on the Dreamworks film of the same title, itself inspired by the autobiography of a real-life con man, Catch Me If You Can has evolved into a splashy, fun stage musical with plenty

of lively dance numbers. Performances are August 8 (opening), August 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17, all at 8 p.m.

The 48th season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals will close September 5-14 with Flower Drum Song. This 1958 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical was based on a 1957 novel by Chinese American author C.Y. Lee, and has come full circle with a new 2002 script by Chinese American playwright David Henry Hwang. Performances are September 5 (opening), September 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Performances of Flower Drum Song are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 7 p.m. Thursday and Sundays.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$28 to \$59 with a \$2 discount for children and seniors. Season tickets are also available, and provide about a 15% discount over the single ticket prices. Also, groups of 25 and more can purchase blocks of seats for half price, providing an affordable outing or fundraiser for a church or service group, neighborhood association, or any other group. For information about tickets, check www.woodminster.com or call [510-531-9597](tel:510-531-9597).

In 2014, Woodminster will continue its popular Kids Come Free program, where children and teens 16 or younger who are attending with paying adults can get free tickets on performance nights. (Limitations apply, see website.) The organization gives away thousands of free tickets to children and teens each summer. Producers Associates is seeking sponsors for this longstanding program, which helps families introduce their kids to live theater in a relaxed and affordable environment.

Woodminster also continues its tradition of opening the final dress rehearsal of each show to the public as a "preview performance." All preview performances are at 8 p.m., tickets are \$18, and seating is open, first-come, first-choice. The preview performance of Les Misérables is July 10, of Catch Me If You Can is August 7, and Flower Drum Song is September 4. No group rates, "Kids Come Free," or other further discounts apply for Preview Performances. Gates open at 7 pm, and attendees are welcome to bring picnics (picnic tables are also first-come, first served).

Musicians for Woodminster shows are members of Musicians Local No. 6. Actors are a combination of professional Actors' Equity Association actors and others. Auditions for the 2014 season will take place March 22 and 23. Details available at www.woodminster.com.

The Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park high in the Oakland Hills. The park's spectacular views and serene woodsy environment made it the perfect setting for the amphitheater, cascades, reflecting pool, and paths that were originally built as a WPA project in 1939-40. For many East Bay families, it is a long-standing summer tradition to enjoy a picnic in the park and then see a musical at Woodminster.

Producers Associates, Inc. was founded in 1967 by the late James Schlader and his wife Harriet to provide affordable live summer family entertainment in the East Bay, and to foster a love of live theatre. For more than four decades, the organization, in partnership with the Oakland Parks and Rec Department, has been producing summer musicals at Woodminster

Amphitheater, attracting more than 20,000 ticket holders each season to Joaquin Miller Park in Oakland. For more information about the 2014 season or history of the organization, visit www.woodminster.com.

Parent Advisory for the 2014 Season: All three shows in 2014 are appropriate for children. *Les Misérables*, because it is a big complex show that's all sung, with very little dance, may be less appealing for young children than the other two. There is some sexual innuendo in both *Catch Me If You Can* and *Flower Drum Song*, but nothing particularly shocking or sordid by modern standards, for children who watch network television.