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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Woodminster Summer Musicals Concludes  
50th Season With *La Cage aux Folles* Sept 2-11  
Hilarious Farce Has Won Best Musical or Best  
Revival of a Musical for Every Broadway  
Production

August 13, 2016, Oakland CA — Producers  
Associates, Inc. announces that the third show  
in the 50th season of Woodminster Summer  
Musicals is *La Cage aux Folles*. This popular  
musical farce will be performed September 2-  
11 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's  
Joaquin Miller Park, located at 3300 Joaquin  
Miller Road in the Oakland hills.

*La Cage aux Folles* is a musical with book by Harvey Fierstein and lyrics and music by Jerry Herman, based on the 1973 French play of the same name by Jean Poiret. It tells the story of Georges and Albin, a gay couple who must pretend to be straight (with Albin in drag) when they meet the very conservative parents of their son's fiancée. *La Cage aux Folles* won 6 Tony awards for the original 1983 production (including Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book), and has had two Broadway revivals; it's the only show that has ever won the Tony Award for Best Revival of Musical twice and that has won a Best Production award for all three of its Broadway productions.

Says director Joel Schlader, "This show has a positive message about love and acceptance, and what it means to be a family. It also happens to be lively and entertaining, with some pretty amazing musical numbers. But mainly it's a very, very funny play with classic jokes put in a modern context."

In the play, "La Cage aux Folles" is the name of a gay nightclub where Georges is emcee and Albin is the star performer. The scenes in the nightclub provide the opportunity for big,

entertaining musical numbers featuring Les Cagelles, the glamorous (drag) chorus line. The humor in the story, in classic farce style, revolves around the secret that must be kept, and the increasingly complicated web of misunderstanding that ensues. Though the story may be more appealing to teens and adults than small children, there is no strong language or explicit sexual material.

The production is directed by Joel Schlader, with choreography by Jody Jaron and music direction by Michael Horsley. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6.

Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at [www.woodminster.com](http://www.woodminster.com), or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 10-4 daily or at the box office before any performance. Performances are September 2 (opening), 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Friday and Saturday performances (Sept 2, 3, 9, 10) are at 8, and Thursday and Sundays (Sept 4, 8, and 11) are at 7 pm.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$30 to \$64 with a \$2 discount for children and seniors. Groups of 25 and more can purchase blocks of seats for about half price, providing an affordable outing or fundraiser for a church or service group, neighborhood association, or any other group. For information about tickets, including other discount programs, check [www.woodminster.com](http://www.woodminster.com) or call 510-531-9597.

Woodminster continues 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. Producers Associates is seeking sponsors for this longstanding program, which helps families introduce their kids to live theater in a relaxed and affordable environment. In its 25-year history, the Kids Come Free program has provided over 43,000 free tickets to young theater-goers.

The final dress rehearsal of *La Cage aux Folles* on September 1 will be open to the public. It will start at 8 p.m., all tickets are \$20 at the door, and seating is open, first-come, first-choice. No group rates, Kids Come Free, or other further discounts apply for the final dress rehearsal. Gates open at 7 pm that night, and audience members are welcome to bring picnics and use any open tables. Limited concessions.

Over the last 50 years, Producers Associates has presented 157 productions, entertaining about a million Woodminster Summer Musicals ticket holders. The shows have been performed by more than 5000 actors, over 20% of them members of Actors Equity Association, making the organization one of the Bay Area's most reliable employers of professional actors. The musicals have always been performed with live professional orchestras, which have included 23 different conductors and over 1800 members of Musicians Local #6. In addition, the organization has employed 25 professional set designers, 17 lighting designers, 24 costume designers, 6 sound technicians, 18 choreographers, 6 directors, and over 1,500 young backstage interns.

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. For more information about the 2016 season or the history of the organization, visit [www.woodminster.com](http://www.woodminster.com).

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