



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALENDAR INFORMATION

What: Billy Elliot The Musical

Presented by: Woodminster Summer Musicals by Producers Associates, Inc.

When: 8 pm on August 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11

Where: Woodminster Amphitheater, Joaquin Miller Park, 3540 Sanborn Drive, Oakland

Tickets: 510-531-9597 or www.woodminster.com or at the box office before any performance

PRESS RELEASE

Continuing Our High-Energy Season With Billy Elliot The Musical At Woodminster

July 2, 2018, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates continues the 53rd season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals with *Billy Elliot The Musical!* This astonishing theatrical experience runs August 2-11 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, located on Joaquin Miller Road at upper Sanborn Drive. Based on the international smash-hit film, and featuring a score by music legend Elton John, this spectacular show was named TIME Magazine's "Best Musical of the Decade!"

Set in a northern English mining town against the background of the 1984 miners' strike, Billy Elliot is the inspirational story of a young boy's struggle against the odds to make his dream come true. Follow Billy's journey as he stumbles out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class, where he discovers a passion for dance that inspires his family and community, and changes his life forever.

With a powerful storyline, large youth cast, rousing songs, and sensational choreography *Billy Elliot* is the perfect opportunity to let young talent SHINE!

Says choreographers, Sarah Pon and Blake Hennessy-York, "We are very excited to be working with such a talented cast. The kids in this production are particularly exciting to watch, and we are thrilled to be able to showcase some of the Bay Area's young performers. It is an incredibly moving story about family, friends, and community that we think will connect with audiences today."

Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 10-4 Monday-Sunday, or at the box office 2 hours before any performance. Performances are August 2 (opening), 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11, all at 8 p.m.

Starting this season, we are offering Open Captioning for two performances of each show. Open Caption performances of *Billy Elliot* will be August 2 and 11. We will also be including a performance with Audio Description on August 3. Hearing devices and printed scripts will be available for every performance at both the upper and lower entrances. Please contact Harriet Schlader to reserve a printed script at least one week in advance of the performance attending. Visit our website for more accessibility details. We want as many people as possible to experience "Broadway in the Redwoods" at our amphitheater.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$33 to \$70, with a \$2 discount for seniors 62 and older and a wonderful K75 discount for Kids 16 and younger. Since the beginning, one of Producers Associates' missions has been to make live theater affordable for families in the local community, and the organization offers many ticket discount programs with that in mind. They include:

- Season tickets and flex passes (about a 15% discount)
- Group rate 25+ (about half price, specific performances)
- Group rate 12+ (about 15% off, any performance)
- Oakland residents (about half price, opening night of each show)
- 17-24-year olds (about half price, at the door any performance)
- Kids Come Free (up to 16 yrs, 1 free with 1 paying adult, at the door any performance)
- K75 (up to 16 yrs, about 75% off, 5 discounted kids with 1 paying adult, pre-sales, any performance)

The production is directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Mark Dietrich, and choreography by Sarah Pon and Blake Hennessy-York. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6.

The role of Billy Elliot will be played by Joey Dean, seen in the first show of the season, Disney's *Newsies*. His best friend Michael, will be played by Gideon Klapow, seen as Les in Disney's *Newsies* this season. Billy's Dad will be played by Woodminster veteran, Robert Moorhead. The cast of almost 40 performers (both Equity and non-Equity) will bring this musical to life with heart, humor and passion.

After *Billy Elliot The Musical* the 53rd season of Woodminster Summer Musicals will close with Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* August 30-September 8.

Over the last 53 years, Producers Associates has presented 160+ productions, entertaining over 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 26 professional set designers, 17 lighting designers, 25 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 2019 season or the history of the organization, visit www.woodminster.com.

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