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Broadway and West End's Laura Michelle Kelly and Acclaimed Actor Clifton Davis to Star in *Austen's Pride* at The 5th Avenue Theatre this Fall

October 4 – 27, 2019

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Lindsay Warren Baker and Amanda Jacobs

Directed by Igor Goldin

Choreographed by Lisa Shriver

Music Supervision and Conducted by Matt Perri

(Tuesday, July 30, 2019—SEATTLE) Kicking off its **2019/20 Season**, **The 5th Avenue Theatre** is thrilled to announce that **Laura Michelle Kelly** and **Clifton Davis** will lead the cast of ***Austen's Pride: A New Musical of Pride and Prejudice*** as Jane Austen and as Mr. Bennet. Kelly, a Broadway and West End star known for originating the title role in *Mary Poppins* (West End) and Sylvia in *Finding Neverland* (Broadway), makes her 5th Avenue Theatre debut as one of the world's most beloved and celebrated writers. Davis, the actor and songwriter known for his numerous film and television credits (*Madam Secretary*, *Amen*, *That's My Mama*) and for originating the role of the Sultan in *Aladdin* on Broadway, also makes his 5th Avenue Theatre debut as the father of Elizabeth Bennet. Additional casting will be announced at a later date.

Austen's Pride is an extraordinary new musical feast bound for the world's stages that has a history with The 5th. *Austen's Pride* began its journey with the The 5th in its basement rehearsal hall as part of the **New Musical Development Program**, then titled NextFest, in 2018. This will be the first full-scale, professional production of *Austen's Pride* and marks the 21st new musical produced by The 5th Avenue Theatre. *Austen's Pride* features a book, music, and lyrics by **Lindsay Warren Baker** (*Lily, A Musical Portrait*; *Truth in Beauty: A Shakespeare Sonnet Project*; *Daniel, The Musical*) and **Amanda Jacobs** (*Learning How to Drown*; *The Up Side of Down*; *Truth in Beauty: A Shakespeare Sonnet Project*) and will showcase direction by the Bellingham, Wash.-raised **Igor Goldin** in his 5th Avenue Theatre debut, with choreography by **Lisa Shriver**, who directed and choreographed last season's production of *Rock of Ages*.

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Austen's Pride at The 5th Avenue Theatre

Playing **October 4 - 27, 2019** (press opening Friday, October 18, 2019), single tickets for *Austen's Pride* are on sale now at www.5thavenue.org, by phone at **206.625.1900**, or in person at the **Box Office** at 1308 5th Avenue in Downtown Seattle.

About Austen's Pride

In this sumptuous new musical, Jane Austen enters into her most famous love story and as she does, she begins to understand something about both her characters and herself as she explores this beautiful new world. *Austen's Pride* is a musical of beauty, wit, and wisdom, wrapped up in a journey of self-discovery. It's *Pride and Prejudice* the way you have never before imagined: a story you will not soon forget, with an achingly beautiful score that will transport you to another time and place.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHEN: *Previews begin Friday, October 4, 2019*
Opening Night: Friday, October 18, 2019 (press night)
Closing Performance: Sunday, October 27, 2019
Tuesdays – Thursdays at 7:30pm
Fridays at 8:00pm
Saturdays at 2:00pm and 8:00pm
Sundays at 1:30pm and 7:00pm (no 7:00pm performance on October 27)

WHERE: The 5th Avenue Theatre (1308 5th Avenue, Downtown Seattle)

TICKETS: Please visit www.5thavenue.org or call the Box Office at 206.625.1900 for tickets (starting at \$29). Groups of 10 or more call 1.888.625.1418.

About The 5th Avenue Theatre

The 5th Avenue Theatre is one of America's leading musical theater companies. We enrich the community we love with the art form we love—giving the Pacific Northwest a front-row seat to original powerhouse productions that go on to light up marquees and audiences all the way to Broadway. From the page to the stage, we bring passion and epic scale to every musical we create. With big talent. Bigger-than-life productions. And did we mention dazzle? As a nonprofit theater company and our region's largest performing arts employer, we spread the joy of great musicals with people of all ages across our region and state. Each year, we reach 75,000 young people through our nationally acclaimed education programs. Programs designed to develop new musicals ensure that the next generation of great musicals will be there to tell the stories that captivate tomorrow's audiences. On the national stage, we are a leading voice for the power of this American art form to lift the human spirit.

For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit www.5thavenue.org.

Special thanks to *Austen's Pride* contributing sponsor 4Culture/King County Lodging Tax and restaurant sponsor Purple. Additional thanks to 2019/20 season sponsors ArtsFund, U.S. Bank, and Alaska Airlines.

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