



**Press Contact:** Bridget Summers  
[bsummers@5thavenue.org](mailto:bsummers@5thavenue.org)  
(206) 260-2174

**Contact Info for Publication:**  
[www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org)  
206-625-1900 / 888-5TH-4TIX (584-4849)

**The 5th Avenue Theatre Presents One Singular Sensation:  
*A Chorus Line***

**Featuring the Original Broadway Choreography  
And Many of Seattle's Finest Dancers**

*Directed by David Bennett; Choreography recreated by Kerry Casserly  
Conceived and Originally Directed and Choreographed by Michael Bennett  
Book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante  
Music by Marvin Hamlisch; Lyrics by Edward Kleban  
Co-Choreographed by Bob Avaian*

**September 3-28, 2014**

(August 5, 2014 – SEATTLE, WA) Rehearsals start today at The 5th Avenue Theatre for one singular sensation: the celebrated Broadway triumph, ***A Chorus Line***. Kicking off the company's 2014/15 season, this thrilling 5th Avenue production has plucked fabulously talented dancers from many of Seattle's chorus lines and is putting them center stage, including **Greg McCormick Allen, Taryn Darr, Gabriel Corey, Trina Mills, Mallory King, Connor Russell, Sarah Rose Davis, Taylor Niemeyer, Eric Esteb**, and many others. The 5th is also pleased to welcome back Los Angeles triple-threat **Chryssie Whitehead** in the role of Cassie. Whitehead turned heads and shook audiences with her smoking performance of Lola in *Damn Yankees*. Broadway's **Andrew Palermo** makes his 5th Avenue debut as Zach.

***A Chorus Line*** plays **September 3-28, 2014** (press opening September 11) at **The 5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98101). Tickets (starting at \$29) may be purchased online at [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org), by phone at 206-625-1900, or at the Box Office at 1308 5th Avenue in downtown Seattle. *A Chorus Line* is the musical for everyone who has ever put it all on the line in pursuit of their dreams. Winner of nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this mega-hit captures the very soul of musical theater, and is one of the longest-running Broadway musicals ever.

"*A Chorus Line* is one of the most innovative and exciting musicals I have ever experienced," said 5th Avenue Theatre Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong. "It is a privilege to bring this show to life here in Seattle, and with so many of our city's sensational dancers in the spotlight."

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### **About the Cast**

The radiant **Chrissy Whitehead** returns to The 5th Avenue Theatre as Cassie. Whitehead wowed Seattle audiences in 2012 as Lola in The 5th Avenue and Paper Mill Playhouse's co-production of *Damn Yankees*. She gained national attention as Kristine in the Broadway revival of *A Chorus Line* with her audition process captured on film for the documentary *Every Little Step*. She also portrayed Kathy in the cast of *Company* starring Neil Patrick Harris, filmed live with the New York Philharmonic at the Lincoln Center (now in PBS Great Performances) and was a member of the Radio City Rockettes. In addition to dozens of regional theater credits across the country, numerous television credits including *Grimm*, *Private Practice*, *Warehouse 13*, *Happy Endings*, *Switched at Birth*, *Castle*, *The Mentalist*, and *Grey's Anatomy*.

**Andrew Palermo** joins the cast as Zach. Palermo's performing credits include roles in the original Broadway companies of *Wicked* and *Annie Get Your Gun* (Bernadette Peters revival), as well as *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Matthew Broderick revival). He is primarily a director and choreographer, with credits including *Allegiance* at the Old Globe, *The Other Josh Cohen* at Paper Mill and SoHo Playhouses, *The Frank Loesser Songbook* performed with the New York Philharmonic at the Lincoln Center, *The Mikado* at Carnegie Hall, *Miss Julie* at Geffen Playhouse, and dozens of others. He is the co-founding artistic director of dre.dance with Taye Diggs and an assistant professor of drama at UC Irvine.

Tacoma native **Greg McCormick Allen** will tread the boards in his 23rd production at The 5th as Larry, following productions including *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *ELF – The Musical*, *Guys and Dolls*, *On the Town*, and *White Christmas*. He recently portrayed Mr. Braithwaite in *Billy Elliot* with the Ogunquit Playhouse in Maine and the Grasshopper in Seattle Children's Theatre's production of *James and the Giant Peach*. Seattle audiences will be lucky enough to see him as Bert in *Mary Poppins* at Village Theatre. Allen has been seen at theaters across Puget Sound including ACT- A Contemporary Theatre, Bellevue Civic Theatre, Kirkland Performance Center, and Seattle Repertory Theatre, to name a few.

**Katrina Asmar** makes her 5th Avenue debut as Morales. She recently toured Australia and the US with *In the Mood!*, a 1940's musical revue. Hippodrome State Theater credits include *Carrie* and *Cindy Lou* in *The Marvelous Wonderette*. University of Florida credits include *Velma Kelly* in *Chicago*, *Lola* in *Damn Yankees*, *Pam* in *Baby* (also performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival), and *Alaura Kingsley* in *City of Angels*.

**Scott Brateng** returns to The 5th Avenue stage in the role of Greg. Brateng has performed in many 5th Avenue productions including *Oliver!*, *Secondhand Lions*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Cabaret*. Brateng has regional credits including Village Theatre, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Theatre Under the Stars, North Shore Music Theatre, The Muny, and Denver Center Theatre Company.

**Gabriel Corey** has performed at The 5th many times before, and returns to play the role of Mike, a role he played nearly ten years ago at the age of 15. He has most recently been

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seen on The 5th Avenue stage in productions of *The Music Man* as Tommy Dijas, as well as roles in *Hello, Dolly*; *ELF – The Musical*; *Damn Yankees*; *Guys and Dolls*; *Oliver!*; and *Monty Python's Spamalot*.

Seattle's own **Taryn Darr** returns to The 5th portray the role of Val – the same role she played in The 5th's 2003 production, for which she was widely acclaimed. Darr plays the part September 3-13. She has appeared many times on The 5th Avenue stage including Judy Haynes in *White Christmas*, as well as roles in *ELF – The Musical* and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. She was a sensational hit as Roxi Hart in Village Theatre's *Chicago*, and has performed all over Seattle.

Bellevue native **Sarah Rose Davis** joins the cast of *A Chorus Line* as Maggie. She has performed in a dozen other 5th Avenue productions including *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*; *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*; *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*; *Hairspray in Concert*; *Pirates of Penzance*; and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. Most recently, Davis made a splash in Issaquah and Everett as the iconic Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl*.

**Stephen Diaz** makes his 5th Avenue debut as Paul. The Portland resident has Broadway credits including roles in the *West Side Story* revival directed by Arthur Laurents as well as the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Regionally, he has appeared in *Disney's Aladdin* at Hyperion Theatre, and the West Coast premiere of *Cats*. He has worked with choreographers including Patrick Delcroix, Stephen Petronio, and Donald McKayle, as well as danced the works of William Forsyth, Alonzo King, and Matthew Bourne.

Seattle native **Eric Esteb** steps up to play the role of Don. Esteb made his 5th Avenue debut in 2003 as one of the cut dancers in *A Chorus Line*. Since that time he has been seen in numerous chorus lines at The 5th Avenue Theatre, including *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Secondhand Lions*, *Damn Yankees*, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Most recently, Esteb was the puppeteer operating the phenomenal Audrey II puppet in the ACT/5th Avenue co-production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He is also a part of circus aerial duo, the Innamorati and has performed with Teatro ZinZanni and many other venues in Seattle.

Everett native **Paul Flanagan** plays the role of Al and returns to The 5th Avenue stage where he made his 5th debut in the ensemble of *Oliver!* Seattle audiences have also seen Flanagan in *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Chicago* at Village Theatre. Flanagan recently returned home to Seattle after a stint in New York where he played Al in the national tour of the Broadway revival of *A Chorus Line*.

**Meaghan Foy** takes over the role of Val following Taryn Darr's departure – September 14-28. Previous 5th Ave credits include *Memphis*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and *Mame*. Other credits include *Cloaked*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *The Music Man*, and *Annie* at Village Theatre, as well as *The Producers* and *Evita* at Point Park University. Meaghan graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Point Park and now lives in New York City.

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**Charlie Johnson** returns to The 5th Avenue Theatre to play the role of Bobby. He has been seen here previously in *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *ELF – The Musical*, and *Hairspray in Concert*. He has performed in regional theaters across the country including roles at Paper Mill Playhouse, Maltz Jupiter Theater, North Carolina Theater, and Flat Rock Playhouse. He recently debuted his one-man show, *Charlie, or Change*, in New York.

Bellevue native **Mallory King** steps up to the line as Kristine. King grew up training at PNB and received a BFA in musical theater from Brigham Young University. King has performed in 5th Avenue productions of *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*, *The Music Man* and *Oliver!* She has also performed with Village Theatre, Showtunes Theatre Company and Couer d'Alene Summer Theatre.

In her 5th Avenue debut, **McKayla Marso** takes the stage to play Judy. Marso has performed in national tours of *Monty Python's Spamalot* and *The Wizard of Oz*. She has performed regionally across the country in productions of *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, and *My Fair Lady*.

Seattle native **Trina Mills** returns to The 5th Avenue stage to play Sheila. She has performed at The 5th many times, including roles in *West Side Story*, *Mame*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *White Christmas*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *RENT*, *ELF – The Musical*, *Oliver!*, and *Monty Python's Spamalot*. A student of ballet and dance from the age of 3, Mills earned a BA in acting from WWU. In addition to performing at theaters throughout the region, Mills spent eight years as a Seattle Sea Gal, including three years as squad leader.

**Taylor Niemeyer**, who plays Bebe in *A Chorus Line*, most recently played Zaneeta Shinn in The 5th Avenue's hit *The Music Man*. She has performed in productions of *Big River* and *Annie Get Your Gun* at Village Theatre and *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Seattle Musical Theatre. She can be seen this holiday season at Village Theatre in *Mary Poppins*.

Local new-comer **Richard Peacock** makes his 5th Avenue debut as Richie. The recent Cornish College of the Arts graduate had the opportunity to perform in *Xanadu* at Village Theatre. The aspiring dancer has worked with esteemed choreographers including Camille A. Brown, Iyun Ashani Harrison, Timothy Lynch and Wade Madeson.

Seattle native **Connor Russell** steps up to the line to play Mark, and has performed at The 5th Avenue in productions of *Disney's Aladdin*, *Music Man* and *Hairspray in Concert*. A local staple, he has also been seen at Village Theater in productions of *Funny Girl*, *42nd Street*, and *The Who's Tommy*, as well as *High School Musical* at Seattle Children's Theatre and *Zanna Don't* with Contemporary Classics. He is a regular with Contemporary Classics' hit series, "New Voices." He recently starred in the award-winning web series *The Hinterlands*.

**Momoko Sugai** makes her 5th Avenue debut as Connie. She has played the role previously at the Olney Center – a production that received the 2014 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical. Additional regional credits include *HAIR* at Seacost Repertory

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Theater, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* at Performance Riverside, and *Godspell*, *Nunsense*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Once on this Island* at Mysterium Theater.

Joining the show as the cut dancers are **Kyle Bernbach**, **Ulyber Mangune**, **Nick Perry**, **Sarah Shepler**, **Michael Stumpfig**, and **Indeah Thomaier**. **Sydney Buckley**, **Ethan Carpenter**, and **Carly Herbert** join the cast as swings.

### **About the Director**

Esteemed Seattle director **David Bennett** returns to The 5th to direct *A Chorus Line*. His previous 5th Avenue credits include *Miss Saigon*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Most Happy Fella*, and *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*. He has also directed productions of *Man of La Mancha* and *Once on this Island* at Village Theatre, and *Neverending Story*, *Bunnicula*, and *June B. Jones* for Seattle Children's Theater. His production of *Torso* by Keri Healey at Printer's Devil received the Osborn New Play Award. His work has also been seen at Casa Mañana, Peterborough Players, North Carolina Theatre, Gateway Playhouse and Ordway Theatre, among others. His upcoming projects include *The Fantasticks* with Showtunes Theatre Co. at Benaroya Hall, and Sarah Rudinoff's new solo piece, *Is This Real Life?*, recently part of On the Board's Northwest New Works Festival.

### **About the Choreographer**

**Kerry Casserly** joins the production team at The 5th Avenue Theatre to restage Michael Bennett's original choreography for *A Chorus Line*. She is a veteran of the Broadway, National and International companies of *A Chorus Line*. Casserly played the role of Kristine in the record-breaking Broadway gala performance. Other credits include *Pippin* with Bob Fosse, *My One and Only* with Tommy Tune, and *Annie* and *Annie Warbucks* with Martin Charnin and Peter Gennaro. TV and film credits include *Baryshnikov on Broadway* and *All That Jazz*. Casserly has directed and choreographed for Music Theater Wichita, Casa Mañana Theatre, University of Michigan, and serves as artistic director at Lundstrum Center for the Performing Arts in Minneapolis. Casserly worked directly with *A Chorus Line* creator Michael Bennett, and is thrilled to pass on the tradition of this classic, inspiring, and timeless piece.

### **About the Creative Team**

*A Chorus Line* boasts a talented creative team including lighting designer **Tom Sturge**, scenic coordinator **Erik Holden**, costume coordinator **Michelle Terese Grimm**, and hair and makeup designer **Mary Jones**. Additional staff includes assistant director **Kelsey Thorgalsen**, associate choreographer **Angelique Ilo**, associate music director **Elisabeth Ellis**, and assistant lighting designer **Tristan Roberson**.

### **About The 5th Avenue Theatre**

The 5th Avenue Theatre is one of the nation's premier incubators for new musical theater. Since 2002, the celebrated company has produced 15 new musicals. To date, nine have moved on to Broadway premieres, earning a combined 15 Tony Awards, including two for Best Musical (*Hairspray* and *Memphis*). The 5th Avenue Theatre is also known for its world

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class, critically acclaimed productions of musicals chosen from both the contemporary canon and the Golden Age of Broadway.

Unique in its Chinese-inspired design, this exquisite theater opened in 1926 as a venue for vaudeville and film. In 1980, the non-profit 5th Avenue Theatre began producing and presenting top-quality live musical theater. Today, under the leadership of Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong, Managing Director Bernadine C. Griffin and Producing Artistic Director Bill Berry, The 5th Avenue Theatre attracts an annual attendance of more than 287,000 and ranks among the nation's largest and most respected musical theater companies.

In addition to its main stage productions, The 5th Avenue Theatre is also committed to encouraging the next generation of theatergoers through its extensive educational outreach programs which include The Adventure Musical Theatre Touring Company, The 5th Avenue Awards Honoring High School Musical Theater, the Rising Star Project, Show Talks with Albert Evans, Curtain Up! and Spotlight Nights.

For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org).

#### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** The 5th Avenue Theatre kicks off its 2014/15 season with one singular sensation: the celebrated Broadway triumph, ***A Chorus Line***. *A Chorus Line* is the musical for everyone who's ever had a dream and put it all on the line, and this thrilling 5th Avenue production has plucked fabulously talented dancers from many of Seattle's chorus lines and is putting them center stage, including **Greg McCormick Allen, Taryn Darr, Gabriel Corey, Trina Mills, Mallory King, Connor Russell, Sarah Rose Davis, Taylor Niemeyer, Eric Esteb**, and many others. The 5th is also pleased to welcome back in the role of Cassie Los Angeles triple threat **Chryssie Whitehead**, who turned heads and shook audiences with her smoking performance of Lola in *Damn Yankees*. Winner of nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the spectacular hit is one of the longest-running Broadway musicals ever.

**WHEN:** *Previews: September 3-10, 2014*  
Opening Night: Thursday, September 11, 2014 (press night)  
Closing Performance: Sunday, September 28, 2014

**SHOW** Tuesdays & Wednesdays – 7:30 PM  
**TIMES:** Thursdays & Fridays – 8:00 PM  
Saturdays – 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
Sundays – 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

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

**TICKETS:** For single tickets (starting at \$29) and information, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org) or call the Box Office at (206) 625-1900. Tickets may also be purchased at (888) 5TH-4TIX.

Special thanks to The 5th Avenue Theatre 2014/15 season sponsors US Bank, ArtsFund, and *The Seattle Times* and official airline Delta Air Lines. Additional thanks to contributing sponsor Union Bank.

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