



Press Contact: Bridget Morgan
bmorgan@5thavenue.org
(206) 260-2174

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

Full Casting Announced for a Thrilling New ‘Revisal’ of *Lerner & Loewe’s Paint Your Wagon* at The 5th Avenue Theatre

Featuring some of the most exhilarating songs ever written for the stage, this mythic Western is reborn with a new book adaptation by Pulitzer Prize nominee Jon Marans

June 2-25, 2016

*Music by Frederick Loewe; Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner
New Book Adaptation by Jon Marans
Directed by David Armstrong; Choreographed by Josh Rhodes
Music Direction by Ian Eisendrath*

(Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – SEATTLE, WA) The 5th Avenue Theatre presents an exciting new ‘revisal’ of the sweeping saga **Lerner & Loewe’s *Paint Your Wagon***. Featuring an all new book by Pulitzer Prize nominee John Marans, this show has taken an incredible journey over the last five years from developmental workshops to The 5th Avenue stage this season. Directed by Executive Producer and Artistic Director **David Armstrong**, This thrilling musical tells the inspiring story of the rise and fall of a remote mining town during the height of the California Gold Rush. Audiences will follow the intrepid men and women from around the world who take an incredible leap of faith and cross continents and oceans in search of the American dream, only to find themselves swept up in a clash of cultures, passion, greed and romance. The 5th is famous for inventing new musicals—this time we are reinventing a classic. The show’s brilliantly talented cast features Tony®-nominee **Robert Cuccioli** (originator of the titular roles in Broadway’s *Jekyll and Hyde*) as Ben Rumson, **Kendra Kassebaum** (Broadway’s *Wicked*) as Cayla Woodling and **Justin Gregory Lopez** (Off-Broadway’s *bare*) as Armando. They are joined by **Eric Ankrim, Kyle Robert Carter, Kirsten deLoehr Helland, Steven Eng, Allen Fitzpatrick, Rodney Hicks, Louis Hobson, Mikko Juan, Eli Lotz**, and others.

Paint Your Wagon plays **June 2-25, 2016** (press opening Thursday, June 9) at The 5th Avenue Theatre (1308 5th Avenue, Seattle). Tickets start at \$36 and may be purchased at www.5thavenue.org, by phone at 206-625-1900, or at the Box Office at 1308 5th Avenue, in downtown Seattle.

“This show has had a truly remarkable journey to our stage, and I’m so excited to see it brought to life with a mix of the incredible talent from Seattle and Broadway,” said David

Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager

The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101
email bmorgan@5thavenue.org • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610

Armstrong, director of *Paint Your Wagon* and executive producer and artistic director at The 5th Avenue Theatre.

Paint Your Wagon began its 'revisal' journey at The 5th Avenue Theatre in 2011 after the company received permission from the Lerner and Loewe estates to revise the book. The show underwent a series of readings and development sessions as part of the 5th Avenue's New Works Program, before being featured as the centerpiece of the company's inaugural NextFest: A Festival of New Musicals in a four week developmental lab with Jon Marans' new book in July, 2015. NextFest is a month long celebration of new musicals at various stages of development and an integral part of The 5th Avenue Theatre's year-round New Works Program. A safe environment for dynamic creativity and collaboration, NextFest supports and responds to the needs of individual projects through writer's intensives, table reads, read/sing rehearsals and developmental labs.

"Even though it happened 160 years ago, the California Gold Rush had a profound effect on American history and especially of the West," said Armstrong. "The themes of immigration, multiculturalism, and who gets to sit at the table and achieve the American Dream are all inherent in the real stories of the period and we have incorporated them into our story for the musical."

About the Director

David Armstrong is the Executive Producer and Artistic Director of The 5th Avenue Theatre where he has directed acclaimed productions of *Candide*; *Oliver!*; *Sweeney Todd*; *Hair*; *Hello, Dolly*; *Mame*; *White Christmas*; *A Little Night Music*; *A Room with A View*; *Company*; *The Rocky Horror Show*; *Pippin*; *Jaques Brel Is Alive...* and *Anything Goes*. On Broadway, he directed the musical *Scandalous*, which he staged at The 5th under the title *Saving Aimee*. His direction and choreography have been seen at many leading regional theaters including The Kennedy Center, Ordway Center, Cincinnati Playhouse, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, St. Louis Rep, Dallas Summer Musicals, Ford's Theater and Paper Mill Playhouse. Next fall he will stage a new production of *The Secret Garden* at The Shakespeare Theatre Company in D.C. As a playwright, he created the book for The 5th's world premiere musical *Yankee Doodle Dandy!*, and for two musicals for Theatreworks/USA: *Gold Rush!*, which premiered at New York's Kaye Playhouse, and *A Christmas Carol*, which played Off- Broadway at New York's famed Lucille Lortel Theatre.

About the Cast

The cast is led by Broadway's **Robert Cuccioli** as Ben Rumson. Previous 5th Avenue credits include *Jekyll & Hyde*, *A Little Night Music* and *Lone Star Love*. His work on Broadway includes *Jekyll & Hyde*, for which he received a Tony® nomination and Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards, *Les Misérables* and *Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark*. His Off-Broadway credits include *And The World Goes 'Round* for which he received an OCC Award, *Jacques Brel is Alive...*, *Bikeman*, *Snow Orchid*, *Rothschild and Sons*. His regional work includes *Antony & Cleopatra, 1776* (for which he received a Helen Hayes nomination), *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Amadeus*, *Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, *Carnival*, *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *The School for Scandal* and *The Seafarer*. Cuccioli's television credit includes

Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager

The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101
email bmorgan@5thavenue.org • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610

White Collar, *Sliders*, *Baywatch* and *The Guiding Light*. He has been seen on film in *Celebrity* and *The Stranger*. Cuccioli's original cast recordings include *Jekyll & Hyde*, *And The World Goes 'Round*, *Jacques Brel is Alive...*, *Rothschild and Sons* and his debut solo album, *The Look Of Love*.

5th Ave favorite **Kendra Kassebaum** joins the cast as Cayla Woodling. She has been seen in 5th Avenue productions of *Assassins*, *Jacques Brel is Alive...*, *Cinderella*, *ELF*, *A Little Night Music*, *Company* and *The Secret Garden*. Kassebaum was also recently acclaimed for her work in *Come From Away* at Seattle Rep. Her work on Broadway and in New York includes *Wicked* (Glinda), *RENT* (Maureen), *Assassins* (Ensemble/Squeaky Fromme u/s), *Leap of Faith* (Sam), MTC's *The Receptionist* (Lorraine) and Roundabout Theatre's *A Little Night Music* (Petra). Kassebaum's regional credits include Actors Theater of Louisville, Sundance Writer's Lab, San Jose Rep, Ordway Center, Florida Stage, St. Louis Muny and Arizona Theatre Company. She was seen in the film *The Other Woman* and her recordings include *Leap of Faith* and Grammy-nominated *Assassins*.

Justin Gregory Lopez makes his 5th Avenue debut as Armando. A New York-based actor and award-nominated nightclub entertainer, Lopez was seen Off-Broadway in *bare* (Beto, Matt u/s) and in regional productions of *In the Heights* (Usnavi), *Evita* and *The Fantasticks* (Matt). His developmental work includes *The Hamilton Mixtape* (Hamilton stand-by), *Wonderland*, *NC-17* and principal castings in *The New York Musical Theatre Festival*. Lopez's film/TV credits include NBC's *Law & Order: SVU* and *Learning to Drive* starring Ben Kingsley.

Kirsten deLohr Helland returns to The 5th as Jennifer. She was seen earlier this season as Maria in *The Sound of Music* and recently performed as Rizzo in *Grease* (The 5th), Whatsername in *American Idiot* (ArtsWest), Siren in *Lizard Boy* (Seattle Rep) and *Les Misérables*, *Trails* and *The Tutor* at Village. Additional 5th Ave credits include *Oklahoma!*, *ELF*, *Hairspray in Concert*, *Titanic in Concert*, *Pirates of Penzance* and *RENT*. Helland was seen in the film *Laggies* and performs regularly as half of folk-rock duo Hanschen & Ilse.

5th Avenue regular **Eric Ankrim** plays William in this production. Ankrim appeared earlier this season as J. Pierrepont Finch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Select 5th Ave credits include *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Oklahoma!*, *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel*, *Jacques Brel is Alive...*, *RENT*, *Into the Woods*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Miss Saigon*. He made his Broadway debut in *First Date*, a production that began at The 5th, and was seen in *Come From Away* (Seattle Rep), a production soon to hit Broadway. Ankrim's work as a director includes The 5th's hit productions of *Grease* and *ELF – The Musical* as well as *American Idiot* at ArtsWest.

Kyle Robert Carter joins the cast as Wesley. His 5th Avenue credits include *Grease*, *How To Succeed...* and *Jasper in Deadland*. He was seen in the National Tour of *In The Heights* (Benny) and his regional credits include *In The Heights* (Benny) and *Sister Act* (Eddie Souther). Carter was seen Off-Broadway in *Storyville* (Butch "Cobra" Brown).

Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager

The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101
email bmorgan@5thavenue.org • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610

Steven Eng joins the cast as Ming-Li. He was seen last season at The 5th in *Waterfall*. Eng was seen in the London production of *The King and I*. His regional credits include *Pacific Overtures*, *Richard II*, *Henry IV Parts One and Two* and *Miss Saigon*. Other select credits include NY Philharmonic, Pasadena Playhouse, Huntington Theatre, Paper Mill Playhouse, Alliance Theatre, ShakespeareNYC and many more. Additionally, Eng is the co-founder of the National Asian Artists Project and a member of the faculty at NYU Tisch.

Seattle actor **Allen Fitzpatrick** returns to The 5th as Jameson. He has been seen in over forty appearances on Seattle stages with 21 productions at The 5th Avenue including Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd* and J.B. Biggley in *How to Succeed*. His ten Broadway shows include *Les Misérables*, *42nd Street*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Passion*, *Memphis*, *Sweet Smell of Success* and *Damn Yankees*. Additionally, Fitzpatrick is Artistic Director of the Icicle Creek Theatre Festival.

Rodney Hicks appears as H. Ford in this production. He was previously seen at The 5th in *Hair*. His Broadway credits include the upcoming *Come from Away*, *Scottsboro Boys*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *RENT*. His select Off-Broadway work includes *Scottsboro Boys*, *Jacques Brel is Alive...*, *From My Hometown* and *RENT*. Among his regional work is *Come from Away*, *Scottsboro Boys*, *The Mountaintop*, *Big River* and *King Lear*. Hicks has appeared on TV in *Leverage*, *Grimm*, *Law & Order: CI* and *Hope & Faith*. He is also a playwright and creator of *NC-17* and *PS BKLYN*.

Louis Hobson returns to The 5th as Jake. His recent 5th Avenue credits include *Assassins*, *Jacques Brel is Alive...*, *A Room with a View*, *Spamalot*, *West Side Story*, *Miss Saigon* and *Hair*. Hobson was seen on Broadway in *Next to Normal* (2010 Pulitzer Prize), *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Leap of Faith* and *People in the Picture*. His film/TV credits include *C.O.G.* (Sundance 2013), *Laggies* (Sundance 2014), *Lucky Them* (TIFF 2014), *The Man in the High Castle* (Amazon) and *Captain Fantastic* (Sundance 2016).

Mikko Juan makes his 5th Avenue debut as Guang-Li in this production. He is currently a student in the University of Washington's new Musical Theater Program and will graduate in the spring of 2017.

Eli Lotz joins the cast as Craig in this production. His 5th Avenue credits include *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oliver!* and The Rising Star Project: *Spamalot*. Other local credits include *A Christmas Carol* at ACT Theatre and involvement in over 30 shows at Edmonds Heights K-12.

Also staking their claim as the citizens of Rumson City are **Kyle Bernbach, Jared Michael Brown, Ethan Carpenter, Taryn Darr, Sarah Rose Davis, Van Dijk, Eric Esteb, Paul Flanagan, Ulyber Mangune, Trina Mills, Aaron Shanks, Nicholas Tarabini, Brenna Wagner, and Carolyn Willems van Dijk.**

Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager

The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101
email bmorgan@5thavenue.org • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610

About the Authors

Alan Jay Lerner wrote the original book and lyrics for *Paint Your Wagon*. He was born in New York in 1918. In 1942, Lerner wrote his first musical with Frederick Loewe called *Life of the Party*; in 1943, they wrote their first Broadway musical, *What's Up?* The team went on to write *The Day Before Spring* in 1945, followed by their first hit, *Brigadoon*, in 1947. Lerner wrote the libretto for *An American in Paris*, the first musical film to win an Oscar. Lerner and Loewe teamed up again in the 1950s to write *Paint Your Wagon*, the mega-hit *My Fair Lady*, the film *Gigi* (winner of nine Oscars, including Best Picture) and *Camelot* in 1960. After the retirement of Frederick Loewe, Lerner went on to write *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* and *Carmelina* with Burton Lane, *Coco* with André Previn, *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue* with Leonard Bernstein and *Dance a Little Closer* with Charles Strouse. Lerner and Loewe reunited in 1973 to provide Broadway with a stage version of *Gigi*. Alan Jay Lerner died in 1986 at the age of 67.

Frederick Loewe wrote the music for *Paint Your Wagon*. Loewe was born in Vienna in 1901. A child piano prodigy at age four, he made his concert debut with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra at age 13. After arriving in America in 1930, Loewe wandered about in such odd jobs as cowpunching in Montana, gold prospecting in Colorado and saloon hall piano playing everywhere. In 1942, on the brink of establishing himself as a composer of popular songs, Loewe approached Alan Jay Lerner at a club in New York and said he would like to collaborate with him on a musical show. The two went on to enjoy a notable partnership that lasted 18 years, resulting in the musicals *Brigadoon*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot*. In 1961 Loewe retired to the French Riviera until 10 years later, when Lerner persuaded him to write the score for a musical film based on *The Little Prince*, followed by creating new music for Lerner's expanded book and lyrics for the 1973 Broadway version of *Gigi*. Frederick Loewe died February 14, 1988, at the age of 88 in Palm Springs, California.

Jon Marans created the new book for The 5th Avenue's Production of *Paint Your Wagon*. Maran's plays include *Old Wicked Songs*, a Pulitzer Prize Finalist for Drama which ran for a season off-Broadway, in London's West End starring Bob Hoskins and has been produced throughout the U.S. and in over a dozen countries; *The Temperamentals* which ran for over eight months Off-Broadway and was nominated for the Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding New Off-Broadway play; *A Strange and Separate People*; *A Raw Space*; *Jumping for Joy*; the book to the musical *Legacy*; book and lyrics to *The Irrationals*. In film, Marans and Yuri Sivo were hired by Universal Pictures/Tribeca Productions to write a political/war screenplay based on Roy Rowan's acclaimed book *Chasing the Dragon*. In television, Marans was a writer/lyricist for the 1991 *New Carol Burnett Show* on CBS. *The Temperamentals* and *Old Wicked Songs* are currently in film development. Marans is a recipient of a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship.

About the Choreographer

Josh Rhodes' choreography has been featured on film, television, and in theaters all across the country. He recently choreographed the new Broadway musical *Bright Star*, written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. Rhodes' other Broadway credits include *Cinderella*, *First*

Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager

The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101
email bmorgan@5thavenue.org • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610

Date and It Shoulda Been You. His work has been seen across the country at The Kennedy Center, Broadway Playhouse in Chicago, Paper Mill Playhouse and The Old Globe amongst many others. At the Old Globe in San Diego, Rhodes directed Ken Ludwig's play *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*. Rhodes choreographed *Sweeney Todd* starring Emma Thompson and *Sondheim: The Birthday Concert*, both winning the Emmy award for Outstanding Program. His acclaimed work on *Company* starring Neil Patrick Harris was seen in the film and stage version and was featured on the 2011 Tony Awards®.

About the Music Director

Ian Eisendrath is the Music Supervisor and Ahadoff Family Director of New Work whose 5th Avenue credits include *Carousel; A Room With a View; Secondhand Lions; Disney's Aladdin; A Christmas Story The Musical; Vanities; Oklahoma!; On the Town; Sunday in the Park With George; Cabaret; Into the Woods; West Side Story; Company; Sweeney Todd* and *Miss Saigon*. His work was seen on Broadway and the national tour of *A Christmas Story*. Eisendrath's regional credits include *Come From Away* (La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle Repertory Theatre), *Cabaret* (TUTS, Ordway, American Musical Theater of San Jose), *Miss Saigon* (Casa Mañana), multiple new musicals at the Banff Centre for the Arts, *The Nutcracker* and Susan Stroman's *Take Five (More or Less)* at PNB. His upcoming work includes *Come From Away (Broadway, D.C. and Toronto)*. He has taught musical theater performance at the University of Washington and is a member of the festival selection committee for the National Alliance of Musical Theatre. Eisendrath holds a degree in conducting music theater and choral repertoire from the University of Michigan.

About the Creative Team

The creative team includes **August Eriksmoen** (orchestrator), **Jason Sherwood** (scenic design), **David C. Woolard** (costume design), **Tom Sturge** (lighting design), **Justin Stasiw** (sound design), **Mary Pyanowski Jones** (hair and makeup design), **Jason DeBord** (dance arranger), and **Ian Eisendrath** and **Albert Evans** (new song arrangers).

Additional staff includes **Adam Quinn** (associate director), **Chris Ranney** (associate music director), **Lee Wilkins** (assistant choreographer), **Tristan Roberson** (assistant lighting designer), **Siri Nelson** (costume design assistant), **Kevin Heard** (associate sound designer), **David Hsieh** (dialect coach), **Alyssa Keene** (dialect coach) and **Zach Redler** and **Ryan Driscoll** (music preparation). The stage management staff includes **Amy Gornet** (production stage manager), **Rachel Bury** (assistant stage manager) and **Rachael Dorman** (assistant stage manager).

About The 5th Avenue Theatre

The non-profit 5th Avenue Theatre is acclaimed as one of the nation's leading musical theater companies and is especially renowned for its production and development of new works. Since 2001, the Seattle-based company has produced 17 new musicals. To date, nine (including the sensational hit *Disney's Aladdin*) 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 class, critically acclaimed

Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager

The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101
email bmorgan@5thavenue.org • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610

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. Today, under the leadership of Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong, Managing Director Bernadine C. Griffin and Producing Artistic Director Bill Berry, this non-profit theater company attracts an annual attendance of more than 300,000, including over 25,000 subscribers – one of the largest theater subscriptions in North America.

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

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHAT: A sweeping saga of the mythic American West rolls into The 5th Avenue Theatre this June in a brand new 'revisal': ***Lerner and Loewe's Paint Your Wagon***. This lusty musical has always featured some of the greatest songs **Frederick Jay Lerner** and **Alan Loewe** ever wrote for the stage, including "They Call the Wind Maria," "I Talk to the Trees," and "I Was Born Under a Wand'rin' Star." Now audiences can experience this Gold Rush musical as it has never been seen before, with a brand new book by Pulitzer Prize-nominated playwright **Jon Marans** (*Old Wicked Songs*) under the direction of 5th Avenue Executive Producer and Artistic Director **David Armstrong** with choreography by **Josh Rhodes**. Starring Tony®-nominee **Robert Cuccioli** (originator of the titular roles in Broadway's *Jekyll and Hyde*) as Ben Rumson, **Kendra Kassebaum** (Broadway's *Wicked*) as Cayla and **Justin Gregory Lopez** (Off-Broadway's *bare*) as Armando, this timeless adventure strikes gold.

This thrilling musical tells the inspiring story of the rise and fall of a remote mining town during the height of the California Gold Rush. Journey with intrepid men and women from across the world as they take an incredible leap of faith and cross continents and oceans in search of the American Dream— only to find themselves swept up in a clash of cultures, passion, greed and romance. The 5th is famous for inventing new musicals—this time we are reinventing a classic.

WHEN: *Previews begin: June 2, 2016*
Opening Night: June 9, 2016 (press night)
Closing Performance: June 25, 2016

Performance times vary. Please visit <https://www.5thavenue.org> for details

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

TICKETS: Please visit www.5thavenue.org or call the Box Office at (206) 625-1900. Tickets (starting at \$36) may also be purchased at (888) 5TH-4TIX.

Special thanks to 2015/16 season sponsors ArtsFund, U.S. Bank, *Seattle Times* and official airline Delta Air Lines. Additional thanks contributing sponsors Bank of America, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and restaurant sponsor Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery.

###

Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager

The 5th Avenue Theatre • 1308 5th Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101
email bmorgan@5thavenue.org • tel 206.260.2174 • fax 206.292.9610