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## **Go Behind the Scenes of the Reinvention of *Lerner & Loewe's Paint Your Wagon* at a FREE 5th Avenue Theatre Spotlight Night**

*7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 10 at the  
Mark Taper Auditorium in Benaroya Hall*

(Tuesday, April 12, 2015 – SEATTLE, WA) **The 5th Avenue Theatre** welcomes audiences to **Spotlight Night**, an exciting and exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpse at the next major musical in the 2015/16 season, ***Lerner & Loewe's Paint Your Wagon***. This Spotlight Night is an evening of story and song exploring the world of this epic Gold Rush musical and its incredible journey to The 5th Avenue stage this season. Hosted by Executive Producer and Artistic Director **David Armstrong**, this free event will feature fascinating guests, insightful stories and performances from some of the show's brilliantly talented cast including **Robert Cuccioli, Kendra Kassebaum** and **Justin Gregory Lopez**.

**Spotlight Night** for ***Paint Your Wagon*** begins at **7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 10, 2016** at the **Mark Taper Auditorium in Benaroya Hall**. To reserve tickets to this free event, or for additional information, please visit <https://www.5thavenue.org/show/paint-your-wagon-spotlight>, call 206-625-1900 or stop by the Box Office at 1308 5th Avenue in Downtown Seattle. Spotlight Night is made possible through the generous support of U.S. Bank.

The evening begins with special guest **Douglass Sackman** and an exploration of the California Gold Rush in 1848 that set off an unprecedented mass migration that brought diverse people from all corners of the world together and changed America forever. Sackman is a Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Puget Sound.

Next, Armstrong and 5th Avenue Artistic Associate **Albert Evans** will take audiences inside the life of Frederick Loewe of the legendary musical theater writing team Lerner & Loewe. Complete with thrilling performances from their iconic musicals including *Brigadoon*, *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot*, not to mention *Paint Your Wagon*, audiences will learn how this Viennese-born New Yorker came to write two of the most beloved Western anthems of all time: "They Call the Wind Maria" and "Wand'rin' Star."

Finally, the evening will feature a panel discussion with the creative team behind this sensational new production moderated by former *Seattle Times* theater critic **Misha Berson**. The panel will include Director **David Armstrong**, Pulitzer Prize-nominated

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**Bridget Morgan, Public Relations & Communications Manager**

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playwright **Jon Marans**, Music Director **Ian Eisendrath** and Choreographer **Josh Rhodes** and will cover the musical's brand new book (authorized by the Lerner & Loewe estate), the exciting new bluegrass-inspired orchestrations and the show's incredible journey through multiple workshops—including development at last summer's inaugural 5th Avenue NextFest Festival of New Musicals—to The 5th Avenue mainstage.

### **About *Paint Your Wagon***

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 Lerner** and **Alan J. 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.

Follow the story of the rise and fall of a remote mining town during the height of the Gold Rush. This thrilling musical tells the inspiring story of men and women from around the world who take a leap of faith and journey to California to seize hold of the American dream, only to find themselves swept up in a clash of culture, passion, greed and romance. The 5th is famous for inventing new musicals—this time we are reinventing a classic.

***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](http://www.5thavenue.org), by phone at 206-625-1900, or at the Box Office at 1308 5th Avenue, in downtown Seattle.

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