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Full Cast Announced for Sensational New Ahrens and Flaherty Musical, *Marie, Dancing Still – A New Musical*, to play The 5th Avenue Theatre this Spring

March 22 – April 14, 2019

Book & Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens; Music by Stephen Flaherty

Directed and Choreographed by Susan Stroman

(Wednesday, March 6, 2019—SEATTLE) **The 5th Avenue Theatre** has announced full casting for its production of *Marie, Dancing Still – A New Musical*, the gorgeous new work from Tony Award-winning authors **Lynn Ahrens** and **Stephen Flaherty** (*Ragtime*, *Once On This Island*) and five-time Tony Award-winning director and choreographer **Susan Stroman** (*The Producers*, *Contact*).

Previously announced casting includes the acclaimed international prima ballerina, New York City Ballet principal dancer **Tiler Peck** in the title role, Tony Award-nominated actors **Terrence Mann** (Broadway Original Casts: Javert in *Les Misérables*, Beast in the *Beauty and the Beast*, Rum Tum Tugger in *Cats*) as Edgar Degas; **Louise Pitre** (Broadway: *Mamma Mia!*) as Adult Marie, **Dee Hoty** (Broadway: *Footloose*, *Bye Bye Birdie*) as Mary Cassatt; Tony-winning actress **Karen Ziemba** (Broadway: *Contact*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *42nd Street*) as Martine Van Goethem; and **Jenny Powers** (Broadway: *Grease*, *Little Women*) as Antoinette Van Goethem. **Kyle Harris** (National Tour: *West Side Story*), who originated the role of Christian at The Kennedy Center, also returns. **Christopher Gurr** (Broadway: *Spamalot*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *All the Way*) joins the cast as Corbeil, with **Noelle Hogan** (Off-Broadway: *The Runaways*; National Tour: *Fun Home*) as Charlotte Van Goethem.

Just announced is the ensemble, which features the multitalented **Caitlin Abraham**, **Polly Baird**, **Lauren Blackman**, **Anais Blake**, **Jim Borstelmann**, **Abbey Del Corral**, **Sara Esty**, **Justin Genna**, **Tyler Hardwick**, **Barbara Marineau**, **Jolina Javier**, **Jasmine Ward**, and **Lyrice Woodruff**, with **Jessica Bishop**, **Richard Gatta**, **Amy Ruggiero**, and **David Prottas** as swings.

“The 5th is a driving force in the development of new musicals,” said 5th Avenue Theatre Producing Artistic Director **Bill Berry**. “For us, the only thing as exciting as creating today’s must-see musicals is imagining tomorrow’s. We are thrilled to welcome some of Broadway’s brightest lights to Seattle to create this new musical for our Seattle community.”

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Marie, Dancing Still – A New Musical at The 5th Avenue Theatre

Playing **March 22 – April 14, 2019** (press opening Friday, April 5), single tickets for *Marie, Dancing Still* 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.

Set in 19th-century Paris in an era of groundbreaking artistry, a girl named Marie dreams of being the next star of the ballet. Despite the odds of her hard-scrabble life, she scrimps, saves, and steals in pursuit of her ambitions. But when fate leads her to the studio of Impressionist Edgar Degas, she unknowingly steps into immortality—becoming the inspiration for his most famous sculpture ever: *Little Dancer*. *Marie, Dancing Still*, which was formerly titled *Little Dancer* in a previous production at The Kennedy Center in 2014, is the gorgeous new musical poised to conquer the stage—and your heart.

About the Cast

Tiler Peck makes her 5th Avenue Theatre debut as Marie Van Goethem. Peck is an international award-winning Principal Dancer with the New York City Ballet, curator, actress, and designer. Broadway: *The Music Man* (Gracie Shinn), *On the Town* (Ivy Smith). Regional: *Carousel* (Louise). Film/TV: *Ballet Now* (*Dance Magazine*). Awards: Dance Magazine Award (2016), Forbes 30 Under 30 (2013), and Princess Grace Statue Award (2013). Peck is a designer of Tiler Peck Designs for Body Wrappers.

Terrence Mann returns to The 5th to star as Edgar Degas. The 5th: *The Sound of Music* (Capt. Von Trapp). Broadway: *Pippin* (Charles, Tony nom, Outer Critics Circle Award); *Les Misérables* (Javert, Tony nom); *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast, Tony nom); *Cats* (Tigger); *Barnum* (Ringmaster); *Jerome Robbins' Broadway* (Narrator); *Finding Neverland* (Frohman/Hook); *Addams Family* (Mal Bieneke); *Tuck Everlasting* (Man in Yellow Suit). Off-Broadway: *Assassins* (Czolgosz), *Jerry Springer the Opera* (Jerry Springer). Film/TV: *Sense8* (Whispers), *A Chorus Line* (Larry), *30 Rock*, *Dresden Files* (Bob). Artistic Director: Triple Arts Musical Theatre Intensive, Conn Rep Nutmeg Series.

Louise Pitre makes her 5th Avenue Theatre debut as Adult Marie Van Goethem. Broadway: Donna Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!* (Tony nomination). Regional: *Mama Rose*, *Gypsy*, Chicago Shakespeare; *Mame*, *Mame*, *Goodspeed*. Recipient of four Dora Mavor Moore awards for *Blood Brothers*, *Piaf*, *Toxic Avenger*, *Mamma Mia!* She has released four albums and tours-in-concert in Canada and the US. Next: Dr. Madden in *Next to Normal* this spring and *Piaf* in *Piaf-Dietrich*, *A Legendary Affair* this fall, both at CAA Theatre in Toronto.

Dee Hoty returns to The 5th Avenue Theatre as Mary Cassatt. The 5th: Starred in *Mame*, *Lone Star Love*, *Anything Goes*. Broadway/Tony nominations*: *Bright Star*, *Gigi*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Footloose**, *Best Little Whorehouse Goes Public**, *Will Rogers Follies**, *City of Angels*, *Me and My Girl*, *Big River*. Tours/Regional: *Fern Hill*, *Sylvia*, *Lion in Winter*, *9 to 5*, *Dr. Doolittle*, *Rich Girl*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Barnum*. Film/TV: *Dickinson*, *Mrs. Maisel*, *The Sinner*, *Elementary*, *Smash*, *Law and Order*. Otterbein University: B.A. Speech & Theatre, Honorary Doctorate of Arts.

Karen Ziemba makes her 5th Avenue Theatre debut as Martine Van Goethem. Broadway: *Contact* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Curtains* (Tony nom); *Steel Pier* (Tony nom); *Never Gonna Dance* (Tony nom); *Prince of Broadway*; *Crazy for You*; *Bullets Over Broadway*. Off-Broadway: *And the World Goes 'Round*, *Kid Victory*, *Heartbreak House*, *Heresy*. Regional: *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound*. TV: *Madam Secretary*, *Elementary*, *The Good Wife*, *Law & Order: SVU/Criminal Intent*.

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Jenny Powers returns to The 5th as Antoinette Van Goethem. *Secondhand Lions*. Broadway: *Grease*, *Little Women*. Off-Broadway: *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman*, *Of Thee I Sing*; *Follies*; *Donnybrook!* (Drama Desk nom); *Happiness*. Regional: *Dangerous Beauty*; *Little Dancer*; *The Glorious Ones*; *Loving Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein*. TV/Film: *Power*, *Blue Bloods*, *The Good Wife*, *Mercy*, *Law & Order: CI*, *Nurse Jackie*, *I Think I Love My Wife*, *The Mysteries of Laura*. Debut album with husband, Matt Cavanaugh: *Gonna Make You Love Me*.

Kyle Harris makes his 5th Avenue Theatre debut as Christian. Broadway/National Tour: *Sondheim on Sondheim*, Tony in *West Side Story*. Regional: *Little Dancer*, *A Room With a View*, *The Rainmaker*, *Hair*. Television: *God Friended Me*, *Stitchers* (Teen Choice Nomination), *High Maintenance*, *The Blacklist* *Redemption*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Carrie Diaries*. His book *Katerina Ballerina and the Pen Pal Pack* will be released next spring, written with *Marie, Dancing Still* co-star, Tiler Peck.

Christopher Gurr makes his 5th Avenue Theatre debut as Corbeil and Degas Understudy. Broadway: *Cats* (revival), *Tuck Everlasting*, *Kinky Boots*, *Amazing Grace*, *All The Way*. National Tours: *Memphis*, *Spamalot*. Off-Broadway: *Arturo Ui* (Classic Stage Company). Regional: *The Sting* (Paper Mill); *Titanic* (Pittsburgh CLO); *Copenhagen, 1776*, *Twelve Angry Men* (Geva); *Tommy*, *Oklahoma!* (Berkshire Theatre Festival); *Lion in Winter* (Indiana Rep); *Drowsy Chaperone* (Human Race). Television: *Madam Secretary*. Proud union member: Actors' Equity, Sag/AFTRA, Stage Directors & Choreographers Society.

Noelle Hogan returns to The 5th as Charlotte Van Goethem, where she previously performed in the National Tour of *Fun Home*, as Charlotte Van Goethem. Off-Broadway: *Runaways* (Public Theatre). TV: *Succession* (HBO). 2018 Regional Mini Breakout Artist for NUVO, NYCDA Mini Outstanding Dancer 2018, Junior OD 2019.

About the Director and Choreographer

Marie, Dancing Still marks **Susan Stroman's** 5th Avenue Theatre debut. A five-time Tony Award-winning director and choreographer, her work has been honored with Olivier, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Lucille Lortel, and a record five Astaire Awards. She directed and choreographed the Tony Award-winning Best Musicals *Contact* and *The Producers*, which was the winner of a record-making 12 Tony Awards. Broadway credits include *The Scottsboro Boys*, *Show Boat*, *Prince of Broadway*, *Bullets Over Broadway*, *Big Fish*, *Oklahoma!*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Thou Shalt Not*, *The Music Man*, *The Frogs*, *Steel Pier*, *Crazy for You*. Off-Broadway credits include *The Beast in the Jungle*, *Dot*, *Flora the Red Menace*, *And the World Goes 'Round*, *Happiness*, *The Last Two People on Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville*, *The Merry Widow* for the Metropolitan Opera. She has created ballets for New York City Ballet, Pacific Northwest Ballet, and Martha Graham. She is a proud member of the Theater Hall of Fame.

About the Writers

Lynn Ahrens (Book/Lyrics) and **Stephen Flaherty** (Music) have been collaborators since 1983. Broadway: *Ragtime*, *Anastasia*, *Seussical*, *Rocky*, *My Favorite Year*, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, *Ragtime* (Broadway Revival), *Once On This Island*. Off-Broadway and Regional: Lincoln Center Theater's *A Man of No Importance*; *Dessa Rose*; *The Glorious Ones*; *Lucky Stiff*; Kennedy Center world premiere of *Little Dancer*. Film: scores for Twentieth Century Fox's animated feature *Anastasia*, *After the Storm*, *Lucky Stiff*. Honors: Tony Award, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Olivier, Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement, and multiple nominations for the Academy Award, Golden Globe, and Grammy. They are members of the Theater Hall of Fame. Individually, Ahrens wrote book and lyrics for Madison Square Garden's *A Christmas Carol*. She has received the Emmy and the Lilly; NAACP Best Playwright Award for *Once On This Island*. Her extensive work in television and film includes *Schoolhouse Rock*

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(ABC-TV), *Camp* (IFC), and many others. Flaherty composed the score of the new dance play *In Your Arms* (Old Globe), incidental music for Neil Simon's *Proposals* (Broadway), and the score of *Loving Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein* (Joseph Jefferson Award, Best New Musical). His work has been performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, and others. Ahrens and Flaherty are members of Council, Dramatists Guild of America. AhrensAndFlaherty.com.

About the Creative Team

The creative team includes **Beowulf Boritt** (scenic design), **William Ivey Long** (costume design), **Ken Billington** (lighting design), **Kai Harada** (sound design), **59 Productions** (projection design), and **Paul Huntley** (hair and wig design).

The music team includes **Shawn Gough** (music director and conductor), **Annastasia Victory** (associate music director), **David Loud** (music supervisor), **Doug Besterman** and **Larry Hochman** (orchestrators), and **Sam Davis** (dance arranger).

Additional staff includes **Jeff Whiting** (associate director), **Ginger Thatcher** (associate choreographer), **Jared Rutherford** (associate scenic designer) **Rebecca Freund** (associate costume designer), **Amber Paul** (assistant costume designer), **Ben Travis** (associate lighting designer), **Catherine Mardis** (associate sound designer), **Haley Parcher** (assistant sound designer), **Kate Wilson** (dialect coach), **Johnny Milani** (production stage manager), and **Libby Unsworth** (stage manager), and **Sarah Helgesen** (assistant stage manager).

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

WHEN: *Previews begin Friday, March 22, 2019*
Opening Night: Friday, April 5, 2019 (press night)
Closing Performance: Sunday, April 14, 2019
Tuesdays – Thursdays at 7:30pm
Fridays at 8:00pm
Saturdays at 2:00pm and 8:00pm
Sundays at 1:30pm and 7:00pm

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).

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

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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 *Marie, Dancing Still* contributing sponsor Seattle Office of Arts & Culture and restaurant sponsor RN74. Additional thanks to 2018/19 season sponsors ArtsFund, U.S. Bank, and Alaska Airlines.

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