



BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS

**2022**  
SEASON  
**PERFORMANCE  
GUIDE**

SOMETHING  
**ROTTEN!**

# WELCOME TO THE BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS 2022 SEASON

It has been two long years since we have been able to gather like today to watch musical magic unfold on the stage of the UC Davis Health Pavilion. Thank you for being here to share in this moment in our 70+ year history in Sacramento.

For those of you that are new to this place and/or this art form, here are the ingredients that go into what you're about to experience:

It begins with Broadway's most popular stories, told in spoken word, song, and dance. Each and every one of them – from the silliest to the most serious – was written to help us better understand ourselves and one another, and celebrate our common humanity.

Our storytellers are our actors and musicians, all of whom have trained for years to become the best that Broadway has to offer. Some are our neighbors, but many have traveled from far and wide to perform for you today.

Those on stage will be visually transformed thanks to the efforts of our costume, hair & makeup, and wardrobe teams. Every piece of clothing and wig worn has been skillfully sewn and styled to both compliment the player and articulate the essence of their character.

This theatre will also be transformed with scenery, properties, lights, projections, automation, and sound, all expertly designed to transport you from a hot summer's day in Midtown Sacramento to another (and hopefully cooler!) place and time.

Most importantly: All of the above elements have been carefully crafted and combined to be shared IN PERSON and TOGETHER. You – your laughter, tears, and applause - are the final ingredient that will make today's performance one I hope you remember and cherish for years to come.

**SCOTT KLIER**  
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/COO

# BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1949** Actor St. John Terrell sets up a summer stock theatre under a giant round tent in Lambertville, New Jersey. Drawing inspiration from the layout of Greek amphitheaters and the summer fun of the circus, Terrell's idea is a success and more than 40 others pop up across the country in the next decade.
- 1951** With the support of arts patron and newspaper owner Eleanor McClatchy, producers Russell Lewis and Howard Young establish the Sacramento Music Circus by setting up a tent in the parking lot of the Sacramento Civic Repertory Theatre. It is the first professional theatre-in-the-round to the west of the Mississippi River, and the fourth in the country.
- 1953** Lewis and Young found the Sacramento Light Opera Association to continue producing shows in the area. Sacramento Music Circus continues to be a successful summer tradition, gaining a notable reputation in the theatre community.
- 1989** The Broadway Series is introduced as a winter companion to the summer shows, bringing national tours of Broadway musicals and plays to Sacramento every year.
- 2003** The Wells Fargo Pavilion opens on the site of the original Sacramento Music Circus tent, providing a state-of-the-art, permanent, fully air-conditioned facility for all future shows.
- 2018** The company name changes to Broadway Sacramento, with the respective touring and summer seasons being named Broadway On Tour and Broadway At Music Circus.
- 2020** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Broadway At Music Circus stage is dark all summer long for the first time.
- 2022** Broadway At Music Circus returns to Sacramento for its 70th season in the newly named UC Davis Health Pavilion!

## BEFORE THE SHOW BEGINS, A FEW QUICK REMINDERS:

- Make sure you find your seat before the show starts! Actors will enter using the aisles, so it is important to be seated when the lights go down to keep everyone safe. If you need to leave for any reason, the ushers in the hallway will let you know when it's okay to enter again.
- Please keep your cell phone silenced and put away during the show. You are welcome to use it before or after, but the bright screens and noises can be distracting for everyone else at the theatre. Using your phone to take pictures or video is also not allowed.
- Please refrain from talking during the show, as it can be a distraction to the actors and the people around you.
- Feel free to laugh, cheer and applaud! The actors love hearing that you're enjoying the show.



**JULY 26 - 31**

**BOOK by**

Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell

**MUSIC & LYRICS by**

Wayne Kirkpatrick  
and  
Karey Kirkpatrick

## THE STORY

Welcome to the Renaissance! William Shakespeare is the rock star of the theatre community, much to the dismay of struggling playwrights Nick and Nigel Bottom. A visit to the wise Thomas Nostradamus leaves Nick with a new idea - to write the world's first musical. With the support of Nick's wife Bea and their investor Shylock, the brothers set out to create a show that will beat out Shakespeare's subsequent work. Faced with rising costs, clashing artistic preferences, and criticism from the local Puritans, Nick and Nigel must work together and trust their supporters to keep their theatre troupe afloat and create the next theatrical hit.

## THE CHARACTERS

**NICK BOTTOM:** a struggling writer who envies Shakespeare's success

**NIGEL BOTTOM:** a kind, awkward young poet and playwright

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE:** a massively successful playwright

**BEA:** Nick's supportive wife

**NOSTRADAMUS:** a fortune-teller who (sort of) predicts the future.

**PORTIA:** a quirky Puritan girl who loves theatre and poetry

**BROTHER JEREMIAH:** a Puritan man who hates the arts

**LORDE CLAPHAM:** a flamboyant, wealthy theatre patron

**SHYLOCK:** a Jewish investor who works with the Bottom Brothers

**MINSTREL:** a charismatic storyteller who narrates the show



# MAKING THE SHOW

## FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO BROADWAY



William Shakespeare may be the most well-known English playwright of the Renaissance Era, but he was far from the only one. The Renaissance was a period of European history marked by significant progress in art, philosophy, and culture, which began in Italy in the 1300s and spread to England in the early 1500s. During that time, many other English playwrights saw success, including George Peele, Thomas Dekker, Anthony Munday, and the duo of Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.

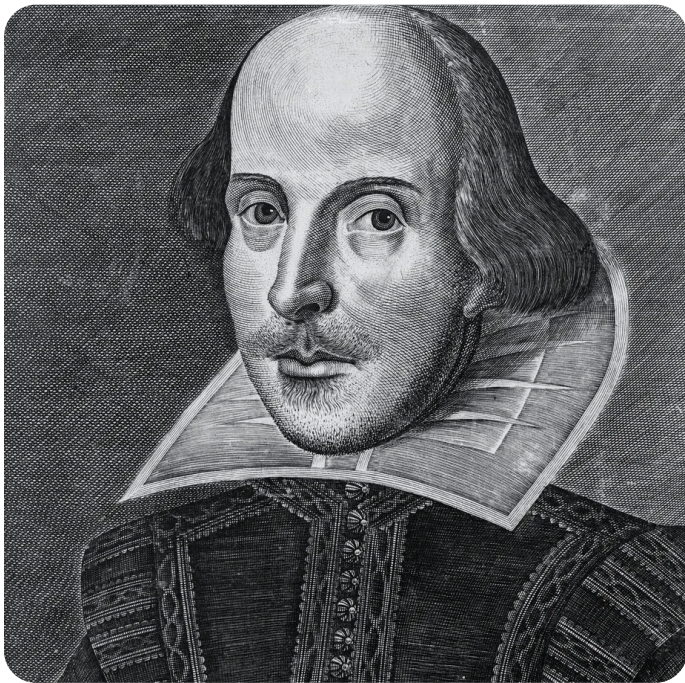


Illustration of William Shakespeare circa 1600

Now, let's flash forward to the mid-1990s. Grammy-winning songwriter Wayne Kirkpatrick and his brother, screenwriter Karey Kirkpatrick, began to ponder what it would have been like to be one of those other playwrights in the English Renaissance era, struggling to escape the shadow of the great William Shakespeare. With the help of screenwriter John O'Farrell, the brothers spent the next 15 years exploring this concept and brainstorming ways to develop it into a complete story.

In 2010, Karey reached out to producer Kevin McCollum for advice on how to develop a musical. That led to a pitch meeting where Karey, Wayne, and John played Kevin some songs and shared the basic outline of the story they had crafted about two brothers who were aspiring playwrights during the Renaissance. Kevin saw potential in the concept, so the creative team

got to work on crafting a full-length show while Kevin recruited Tony-winning director Casey Nicholaw to help them flesh out the details.



Brian d'Arcy James and Christian Borle with the original Broadway cast of **SOMETHING ROTTEN!**

Over the next five years, **SOMETHING ROTTEN!** began to take shape through several table reads and developmental workshops. Karey and Wayne composed over 50 songs to try out, and John and Karey worked with Casey to tighten up the story and strengthen the female characters. A significant workshop staging of the show was held in the fall of 2014, and the reception was so positive that the team decided to bypass an out-of-town production and bring the musical straight to Broadway!

**SOMETHING ROTTEN!** opened at the St. James Theatre in New York City on April 22, 2015, charming critics and audiences alike with its irreverent portrayal of the Renaissance. The show received 10 Tony nominations, with actor Christian Borle winning Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Shakespeare, and it ran for 742 performances. There have been two touring productions in the U.S., and several international productions are currently in development. This production marks the first time **SOMETHING ROTTEN!** has been performed at Broadway At Music Circus, and it is sure to have the audience laughing and cheering as they take a trip back to the 1590s for a few hours.

# SHAKESPEARE-ISMS

## THE LANGUAGE OF THE POET

The Bottom brothers may have detested Shakespeare's prominence during their time, but his impact on the English language is undeniable. Check out these everyday phrases that you may not know came from Shakespeare's writings and what they mean today:

### PHRASE:

*"All's well that ends well"*

*"Break the ice"*

*"For goodness' sake"*

*"Good riddance"*

*"Wear my heart on my sleeve"*

*"Wild goose chase"*

### MEANING:

*A happy ending makes up for any problems along the way*

*Get to know someone*

*A sarcastic phrase used to express frustration*

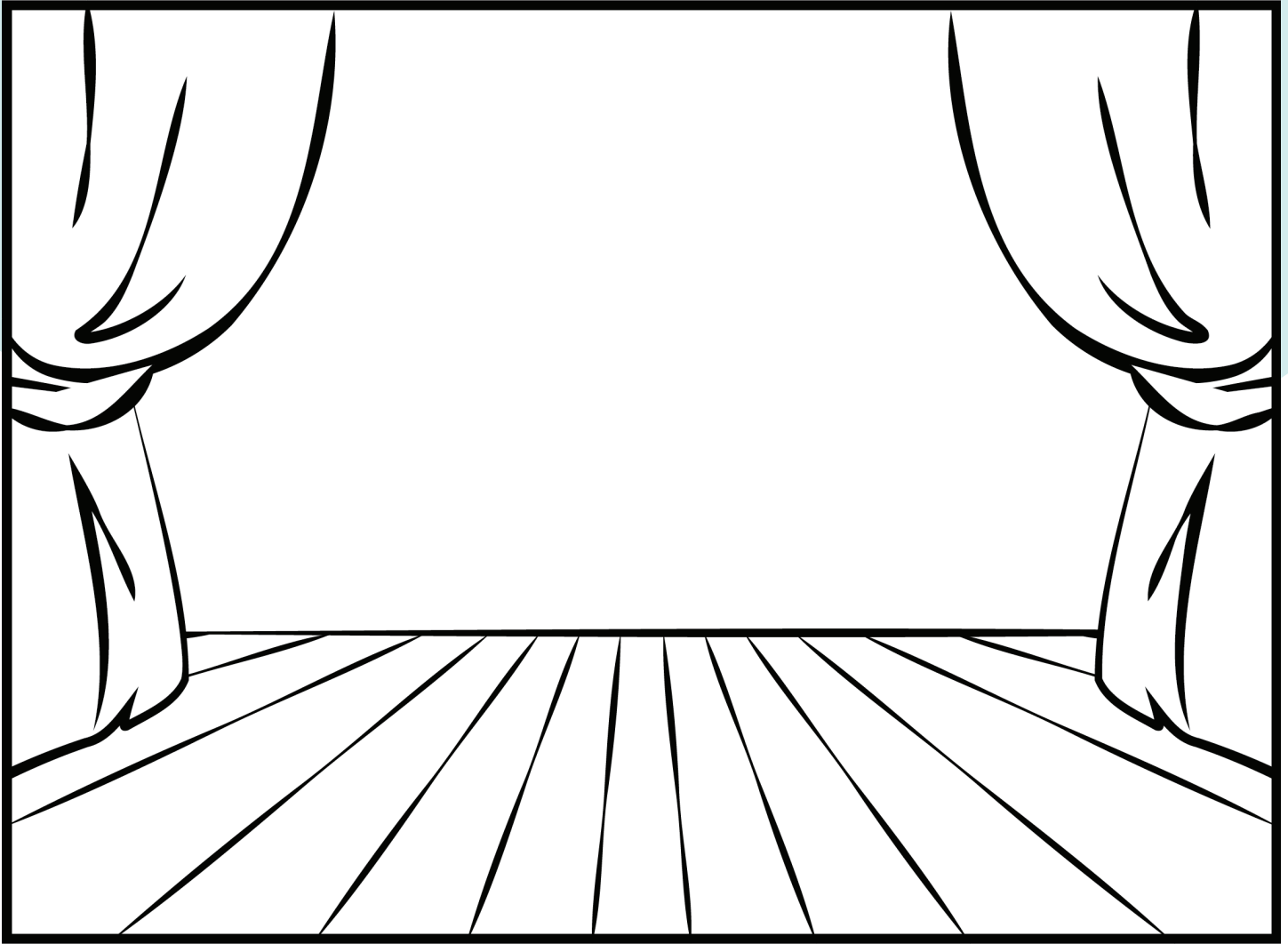
*An expression of relief after getting rid of someone or something bothersome*

*To openly show your feelings*

*Pointlessly pursuing something that will never be found*

# THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Design a set for Nick and Nigel Bottom to use in their musical!



## • THINK ABOUT IT •

- The story of **SOMETHING ROTTEN!** takes place in the 1590s, but there are some contemporary references mixed in. What elements of the show helped you feel grounded in the classical setting? What things felt more modern? Why do you think the creators decided to mix historical and current references to tell this story?
- Nigel's song, "To Thine Own Self," ends up becoming a sort of life motto for the characters as they learn to express themselves authentically. What are some things that you do to express your true self? How does it feel when other people celebrate those things with you?
- Bea defies traditional gender roles in order to support Nick and provide for their family. When have you done something that was different than what people might have expected? How did it feel to push back on those expectations?
- Shakespeare steals a lot of his ideas, and Nick tries to look into the future for inspiration, but most of Nigel's creativity comes from hard work and his love for Portia. What inspires you to be creative? How can you practice being creative this week?



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SPECIAL THANKS TO



This guide was developed by Mason Diab, Caleb Larrosa-Colombo, and Jackie Vanderbeck. Special thanks to Griff Field, Matt Hessburg, Scott Klier, Gina Smith, Dejan Zivkovic, and YOU, audience members, for joining us at Broadway At Music Circus this summer!