



# 2024 SEASON

## PERFORMANCE GUIDE





# WELCOME TO THE 2024 SEASON

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I liken creating a professional musical theatre production to cooking a multi-course, gourmet meal: Both require thoughtful menu planning, the careful sourcing of ingredients, skilled hands for its proper preparation and execution, and a mad scramble at the end of the cooking process to deliver each of the dishes at the right temperature, looking and tasting delicious! And just like cooking, we don't produce shows for the sake of producing them: We create them to feed people, to nourish souls. Welcome to our table!

Theatre is always best served with an understanding and appreciation of its ingredients. That's what inspired our Education and Community Engagement team to create this multifaceted guide. Each of the shows in our 2024 Broadway At Music Circus lineup are represented with insights into their production histories, story content, historical context and what inspired them. It is our hope that this guide both enhances your enjoyment of the show and later serves as a reminder of your time with us.

If you are like me, no meal is too large; I can always find room for another serving! I feel the same about musical theatre – the more, the better – whether it's seeing the same show for the twentieth time or experiencing something completely new. I hope your attendance at a show (or shows!) this summer has whet your appetite for more. We'll keep cooking them up and you, our welcome guest, are always invited.

Bon appetit! Enjoy the show!

**SCOTT KLIER**

PRESIDENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# 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 located 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 (now called the UC Davis Health 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** The 2020 and 2021 seasons were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **2024** **The 72nd Broadway At Music Circus season opens June 11 at the UC Davis Health Pavilion!**

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

- Make sure you find your seat before the show starts! Actors will be entering through the aisles, so staying seated when the lights go down helps 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 phones silenced and put them away during the show. You are welcome to use them before or after, but the bright screens and noises are distracting for everyone else at the theatre. Using your phone to take pictures or video during the performance is also not allowed.
- If you're enjoying the show, make sure to laugh, cheer and applaud! The actors love hearing that you're having a good time. Please save side conversations until after the show, though. That can be distracting for the actors and the people around you.



BOOK BY  
JESSIE NELSON

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
SARA BAREILLES

**AUGUST 6-11**

## - THE STORY -

Jenna Hunterson spends her days waiting tables and baking incredible pies at Joe's Pie Diner, but she feels trapped in her unhappy marriage and small town. When she finds out that she is pregnant, her co-workers and confidantes Becky and Dawn encourage her to leave her husband, but she is reluctant. Jenna finds out about a pie contest that could change her life and begins saving up to enter, while Dawn starts cautiously dipping her toe into the world of online dating.

At her first doctor's appointment, Jenna discovers that her old doctor has retired and the practice is now being run by Dr. Pomatter, a quirky but kind young man who shows Jenna the kindness she has never received from her husband. This gives Jenna a taste of what life could be like and she starts to envision a happier future, but she quickly learns that she can't just fold her troubles into a pie crust if she really wants to bake up a fresh start for herself and her baby.

## - THE CHARACTERS -

**JENNA HUNTERSON:** An unhappy waitress dreaming of a better life.

**DR. JIM POMATTER:** The charming, slightly neurotic new gynecologist in town.

**DAWN:** A quirky, reserved young waitress trying to break out of her shell.

**BECKY:** The wise, sassy older waitress who encourages Jenna and Dawn to try new things.

**OGIE:** A strange and endearingly persistent young man who pursues Dawn.

**CAL:** The gruff, snarky cook who runs the kitchen.

**EARL:** Jenna's self-centered, often aggressive husband.

**OLD JOE:** The grouchy owner of the pie diner, who has a secret soft side.

**NURSE NORMA:** The wisecracking assistant at Dr. Pomatter's office.



# MAKING THE MUSICAL

## FROM SILVER SCREEN TO CENTER STAGE

Much like any good hand made pie, the sweet story of **WAITRESS**' journey to the stage has some bittersweet elements mixed in. The story of small-town baker Jenna Hunterston began as the 2007 independent film of the same name, written and directed by Adrienne Shelly and starring Keri Russell. Shelly had written the film following the birth of her daughter in 2003, crafting a heartwarming story about the complex feelings that came with new motherhood. "Waitress" received critical acclaim during its theatrical release, but Shelly never got to see her film's success: She was tragically killed in November 2006, two months before her film's premiere at the Sundance Film Festival.

Theatre producers Barry and Fran Weissler acquired the stage rights to **WAITRESS** soon after its release, seeing a potential musical in Shelly's quirky characters. After several years of failed starts with creative teams, director Diane Paulus joined the project and she reached out to the woman who gave **WAITRESS** a musical heartbeat, singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles. Bareilles had moved to New York in 2012 for a fresh start and was seeking new creative opportunities, but had never written for the stage and was reluctant to commit. After watching the 2007 film, she was drawn to the story and quickly wrote the song "She Used to Be Mine," which was her entry into the characters' points of view.



Cheryl Hines, Keri Russell and Adrienne Shelly in "Waitress" (2007)

**WAITRESS** continued to bake in the creative oven over the next few years, with writer-director Jessie Nelson joining to write the book for the musical. As she worked, Nelson read some of Adrienne Shelly's unpublished scripts so that she could preserve Shelly's voice in the story. Tony-winning actress Jessie Mueller was brought on to play Jenna, the titular waitress and a series of developmental workshops were held in New York. In the summer of 2015, the cast and crew of **WAITRESS** headed up to Cambridge, Massachusetts, for a tryout production at Harvard's American Repertory Theater.



Keala Settle, Jessie Mueller, Kimiko Glenn in the Original Broadway Cast of **WAITRESS** - Joan Marcus, 2016

That first production of **WAITRESS** was a sold-out success, but the creative team continued to make adjustments to their recipe before opening up on Broadway. Bareilles made many adjustments to lyrics and musical arrangements, Nelson rewrote and reorganized several scenes and choreographer Lorin Latarro was brought on board to craft some creative movements for the ensemble. When **WAITRESS** opened on Broadway in April 2016, it made history as the second-ever Broadway musical to have an all-female creative team.



(L to R) Lorin Latarro, Sara Bareilles, Diane Paulus, and Jessie Nelson in a workshop for **WAITRESS** - Walter McBride for Wireimage, 2016

**WAITRESS** was a critical and commercial hit in New York, earning four Tony Award nominations and running for over 1,000 performances. Composer Sara Bareilles earned additional accolades when she stepped into the cast to play Jenna, a role she later reprised in the show's London run. In September 2021, a return engagement of **WAITRESS** on Broadway was the first musical to open following the COVID-19 pandemic and that production was filmed for a theatrical release in 2023. In addition to its two Broadway runs and two long-running national tours, **WAITRESS** has been produced internationally in seven other countries and translated into four languages. Adrienne Shelly's life may have ended in tragedy, but her legacy is one of resilience and hope that continues to live on through these many productions. In its in-the-round premiere here at **Broadway At Music Circus**, **WAITRESS** is sure to draw people in with its warmth and sweetness, just like a perfect slice of pie.

# LIFE'S JUST PEACHY KEEN POLKA-DOT PEACH PIE

BRING HOME ONE OF JENNA'S SPECIAL PIES!



## INGREDIENTS

- Dough for a classic double-crust pie shell (store-bought is fine!)

### FILLING

- 6 ripe peaches, peeled, pitted and thinly sliced (4 cups)
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/3 cup arrowroot starch
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

### EGG WASH

- 1 large egg
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream

### FINISHING TOUCHES

- 2 tablespoons coarse sugar for top of pie

### HOME MADE WHIPPING CREAM

- 1 cup cold heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla (optional)

*Adapted from Sugar, Butter, Flour: The Waitress Pie Book.  
Text by Daniel Gercke, Recipe by Sheri Castle*

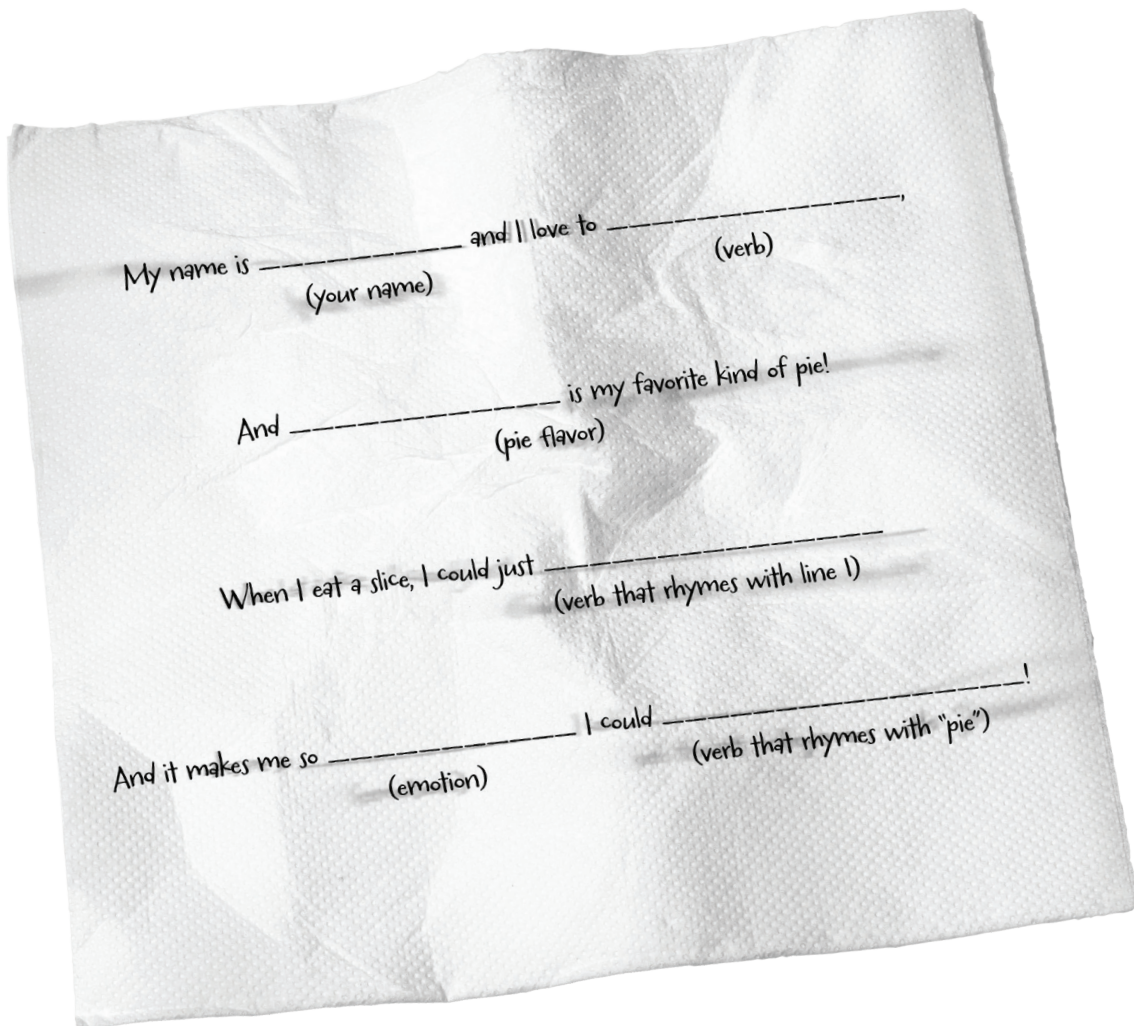
## DIRECTIONS

1. For the pie shell: Roll out one disk of dough on a lightly floured surface and fit into a 9 1/2 inch deep-dish pie plate. Chill for at least 30 minutes, or until firm.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Place a rimmed baking sheet in the oven to heat up with the oven.
3. For the filling: Stir together the peaches and vanilla. In a separate bowl, whisk together the granulated sugar, brown sugar, arrowroot, cinnamon, allspice and salt. Sprinkle over the peaches and toss to coat.
4. Pour the filling into the pie shell.
5. Roll out the second disk of dough and decorate the top of the pie. If you are covering the top completely with dough, make sure to perforate the dough in the center so that steam has somewhere to escape during baking.
6. Make an egg wash by whisking together the egg and cream in a small bowl.
7. Place pie on the heated baking sheet from the oven. Gently brush the pastry with the egg wash and sprinkle with coarse sugar.
8. Bake in the center of the oven for 70 minutes, or until the crust is deep golden brown and the filling is bubbling. Place the baking sheet and pie on a wire rack to cool to room temperature.
9. Combine heavy whipping cream, sugar and vanilla in mixer. Using your whisk attachment, beat until the cream starts to form peaks that hold their shape. Spoon onto your slice of pie and enjoy!



# PERSONALIZED POETRY

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH YOUR OWN RHYMING WORDS TO CREATE A POEM LIKE THE ONE OGIE WROTE FOR DAWN!



## THINK ABOUT IT

- What can you learn about Jenna from the names and ingredients of her recipes? If you were to make a pie to represent your feelings, what would you call it?
  - What other hobbies can help you work through your feelings?
- **WAITRESS** is ultimately a funny and uplifting story, but it contains moments of serious drama. How do those conflicting elements of comedy and drama support the story and what do they tell you about the characters?
- Many of the characters in **WAITRESS** stay in unhappy situations because they are intimidated by the idea of things changing. Why do you think people are often so scared of change?
- Jenna discovers that Old Joe has a compassionate side, that Dr. Pomatter is both quirky and sensitive and that Dawn is much more bold and complex than she seems. What can these characters teach us about judging others based on our first impressions? What helps them each to show these different sides of their personalities?



UC **DAVIS** HEALTH PAVILION

### SPECIAL THANKS TO



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