



**Youth Musical Theater Company**

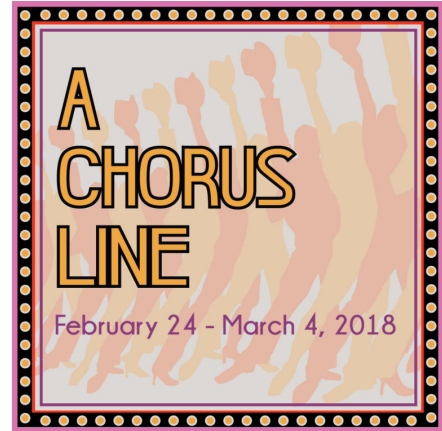
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**YMTC TO STAGE *A CHORUS LINE* IN EL CERRITO,  
FEBRUARY 24–MARCH 4**

*Berkeley, California, January 5, 2018*—YMTC (Youth Musical Theater Company) continues its 13<sup>th</sup> season by presenting *A Chorus Line* at El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater. In 1976, this iconic musical won nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, plus the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Set on a bare stage during an audition for a Broadway show, *A Chorus Line* provides a glimpse into the personalities of the performers and the choreographer as they describe the events that shaped their lives and their decisions to become dancers. Music, dance, drama, competition, and a celebration of the American musical combine for a moving theater experience.

The music of *A Chorus Line* was written by Marvin Hamlisch, the lyrics by Edward Kleban, and the book by James Kirkwood, Jr. and Nicholas Dante. The show features a cast of 29 performing arts students (ages 13 to 21) from cities throughout the Bay Area. They are led by a team of professional directors, designers, and musicians, including director Jennifer Boesing, music director David Möschler, and choreographer Janet Collard. The production will feature a live 17-piece orchestra playing the original arrangements of Jonathan Tunick and Hershy Kay.

Janet Collard studied the original Michael Bennett choreography for the opening and closing numbers, which the cast will perform. In addition, she created new choreography for the remainder of the show. Collard remarks, “Learning Michael Bennett’s choreography has been an exciting challenge. The movement is fast, sharp, and showy. Accuracy and precision are key. It’s the ultimate experience of ‘keeping you on your toes!’” She adds, “The young artists have been hungry to learn this material, and are attacking it with every muscle and drop of sweat. This show has a way of bringing the fire out of its performers.”

Jennifer Boesing says, “People forget that *A Chorus Line* isn’t just a play about dance. It’s a play about people following their dreams, striving for something that feels big and important, and against all odds. My hope is that this production, done at this time, will not be just a diversion but an inspiration for all kinds of people.”

*A Chorus Line* opens Saturday, February 24. Performances run for two weekends at the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito. The run consists of three 2:00 p.m. matinees (2/25, 3/3, 3/4) and three 8:00 p.m. performances (2/24, 3/2, 3/3). Tickets are available online at [www.ymtcbayarea.org](http://www.ymtcbayarea.org) or at the door one hour before curtain. Ticket prices are \$15–\$28, with discounts for students, seniors, military, teachers, and groups.

YMTC offers one “pay what you will” performance to provide affordable musical theater to all in the community. This performance will be on Friday, 3/2, when seats will be offered for cash-only at the box office. Reserved seats can still be purchased online. Resident Music Director David Möschler will speak on “The Music and The Mirror: Kleban and Hamlisch's Legacy of *A Chorus Line* in the lobby one hour before the last two performances (3/3 at 7pm, and 3/4 at 1pm). The lobby will be open one hour before each performance featuring handmade craft beverages, sweet and savory concessions.

*A Chorus Line* contains some mature language and subject matter, and is not recommended for young children.

YMTC's 13<sup>th</sup> season also includes an inaugural YMTC+ production of *Next to Normal* (May), featuring professional alumni and teaching artists, and Jason Robert Brown's *Parade* (July). Three-show season subscriptions, including *A Chorus Line*, can also be purchased online.

## **ABOUT YMTC**

YMTC is dedicated to providing exceptional training to young theater artists through the production of exceptional musical theater. The organization brings together the Bay Area's most talented and dedicated young singer/actors—as well as students of technical theater—with professional directors, designers, and musicians. They take on challenging and sophisticated musical and dramatic themes, and productions are always accompanied by a full, live orchestra.

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

### **YMTC Presents the Musical *A CHORUS LINE***

Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical (1976) centered on the personal stories of dancers auditioning for spots in a chorus line of a new Broadway musical.

**Show Run:** February 24–March 4, 2018

**Opens:** Saturday, February 24, 2018, 8:00 p.m.

### **Performances:**

Saturday 2/24, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 2/25, 2:00 p.m.

Friday 3/2, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 3/3, 2:00 p.m.

\*Saturday, 3/3, 8:00 p.m. (pre-show lobby talk, 7:00 p.m.)

\*Sunday, 3/4, 2:00 p.m. (pre-low lobby talk, 1:00 p.m.)

\*Resident Music Director David Möschler will speak on “The Music and The Mirror: Kleban and Hamlisch's Legacy of *A Chorus Line* in the lobby one hour before the last two performances (3/3 at 7pm, and 3/4 at 1pm).

**Where:** El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito.

**Ticket Prices:** \$15–28. Student, senior, teacher, military, and group discounts are available.

Purchase tickets at [www.ymtcbayarea.org](http://www.ymtcbayarea.org) or at the door opening one hour prior to performance.