



Youth Musical Theater Company

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PARADE COMING TO EL CERRITO, JULY 20–29.

Berkeley, California, June 11, 2019—Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC) concludes its 13th season with the award-winning musical *Parade*. It will run July 20–29 at El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater.

Set in 1913, *Parade* tells the true story of Leo Frank, a Brooklyn-raised Jew living in Georgia. Frank is put on trial for the murder of thirteen-year-old Mary Phagan, a factory worker he employed. Already deemed guilty in the eyes of everyone around him, Frank suffered the added consequences of sensationalist news stories and a janitor's false testimony. His only defenders were a governor with a conscience and, eventually, his assimilated Southern wife, who finds the strength and love to become his greatest champion.

“*Parade* is a story about one of the most glaring miscarriages of justice in recent American history,” says Director Jennifer Boesing. “It’s also a cautionary tale, a warning against scapegoating, racism, xenophobia, and sensationalism in the media—all issues that we can see playing out in American politics today.”

Boesing adds, “Underneath these issues, *Parade* reveals a deeply human lesson about how love and human connection can be forged, even in a climate of intolerance—a story that needs to be told now more than ever. Theater has the power to change hearts and minds, and the young artists at the heart of YMTC take their role as storytellers very seriously.”

The book was written by Alfred Uhry (*Driving Miss Daisy*), and the music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown (*The Last Five Years*, *The Bridges of Madison County*). *Parade* premiered on Broadway in 1998 and won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Original Score, and six Drama Desk Awards. Brown re-worked the show and the orchestrations in 2007 for a revival at the Donmar Warehouse in London, which is the version YMTC will be performing.

The show features a cast of over 30 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 and Music Director David Möschler. The production features a 25-piece orchestra playing the updated arrangements from the 2007 Donmar Warehouse, London production.

Parade opens Friday, July 20. Performances run for two weekends at the El Cerrito High School Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue, El Cerrito. The run consists of two 2:00 p.m. matinees (7/22 and 7/29) and four 7:30 p.m. performances (7/20, 7/21, 7/27, 7/28). After the 2:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday, 7/22, the audience is invited to join a post-show conversation featuring directors, cast, and invited community speakers.

Tickets are available online at 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, 7/27, when seats will be offered for cash-only at the box office. Reserved seats can still be purchased online. ***Parade* examines adult themes, depicts acts of violence, and is not recommended for children.**

YMTC’s 2018-19 season of three musicals has been announced: *Bat Boy: The Musical* (Fall 2018), *A Man of No Importance* (Spring 2019), and *Les Misérables* (Summer 2019). Three-show season subscriptions can be purchased online at <http://www.ymtcbayarea.org>.

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, choreographers 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 ***PARADE***, an Award-Winning Musical

Parade is based on the 1913 Georgia trial of a Jewish man, Leo Frank. His story covers one of the most notorious, publicized, and debated trials in U.S. history.

Show Run: July 20–July 29, 2018

Opens: Friday, July 20, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

Performances:

Friday, 7/20, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7/21, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7/22, 2:00 p.m., *includes a post-show conversation with director, cast, and invited community speakers.*

Friday, 7/27, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 7/28, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7/29, 2:00 p.m.

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 or at the door, which opens one hour prior to performance.