

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Alert for Theatre Editors, Reviewers and Calendar Listings

**Chance Theater proudly presents a new TYA show based on
R.L. Stein's wildly popular spooky stories...**

Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium

**This scary fun musical, featuring singing spooks, fantastic phantoms, and
things that go bump in the night, is a pleasure for the whole family**

April 19, 2019 ... Anaheim, California ... Chance Theater, Anaheim's official resident theater company, is pleased to announce the second show in its fifth TYA Family Series... ***Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium***. With book and lyrics by John Maclay and music and lyrics by Danny Abosch, based on the stories by R.L. Stein, and directed by Darryl B. Hovis, ***Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium*** will preview from **October 4 through October 6; regular performances will begin October 6 and continue through October 27 at Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken theater arts Center on the Fyda-Mar Stage.**

The musical follows Brooke and Zeke are who are thrilled to learn that they've won the starring roles in the new school musical — a mysterious production called *The Phantom*. But when strange, seemingly supernatural events begin interrupting rehearsals, the friends begin to wonder whether the show they're acting in might be cursed. In the slightly spooky, family-friendly world of ***Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium***, Brooke and Zeke must race to find out whether they're being haunted by ghosts or hoodwinked by pranksters.

"A silly, spooky adventure... family-friendly fun" -- Fox 6

"An exciting and entertaining production tinged with humor" – Broadway World

Named the world's bestselling book series of all time in the *2003 Guinness Book of World Records*, R.L. Stein's monthly book series *Goosebumps* has, in its 26-year history, sold over 50 million international prints in 32 languages, making the series one of the best-selling children's series of all time. The series has also inspired two major motion pictures, the first starring Jack Black back in 2015. It's only natural that the momentum of sustained popularity would eventually result in a musical for the whole family. Premiering in 2016 at First Stage in Milwaukee, ***Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium*** has made its way around the United States, playing at theaters like Main Street Theater in Houston, the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia, and the Rose Theater in Omaha.

Director Darryl Hovis feels that the *Goosebumps* stories have been teaching an important, and rare, lesson to young audiences since its inception. "I remember reading the *Goosebumps* novels with my children as they were growing up," says Hovis. "They were frightening and funny at the same time. Silly and fun, they encourage kids to take action, and to not rely on being saved by 'adults.' A lot of times, the adults are a part of the problem. It teaches kids to figure out the solution, but does so in clever ways."

MEET THE TEAM

John Maclay (Book & Lyrics) is a professional actor, director, and playwright who has spent the past 19+ years working professionally in the Midwest, primarily in Milwaukee. Mr. Maclay is an active adaptor of literature for the stage, specializing in Theatre for Young Audiences. His plays and musicals include: *Anatole*, (with Lee Becker and with music by James Valcq), *Nancy Drew and the Biggest Case Ever* (with Jeff Frank) *Geronimo Stilton: Mouse in Space, Just a little Critter Musical*, (Music by Brett Ryback) *Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium* (Music and co-lyrics by Danny Abosch), and *Robin Hood* (with Joe Foust), and is currently working on three new pieces for production in 2018-2020. He also adapted and directed an 80-minute version of *Romeo and Juliet*, for which First Stage was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts' Shakespeare in American Communities grant

Danny Abosch (Music & Lyrics) is a composer/lyricist whose musicals include *Goosebumps The Musical* (several professional productions throughout the U.S. and Canada), *Fancy Nancy The Musical* (Off-Broadway 2012-2014, National Tour 2013-2015, over 100 productions worldwide, Cast Recording available on Ghostlight Records), *Off The Wall* (First Prize winner of NMI's 2014 Search for New Musicals, 2015 workshop and concert in Los Angeles), *Placebo* (winner of the 2012 PMTP Development Award, fully produced workshop at the Pasadena Playhouse directed by Ryan Scott Oliver, additional workshops at the University of Michigan, Oklahoma City University, Emerson College, and Pace University), and *Miles & Me* (2014 workshop at the Musical Theatre Factory in NYC). Danny's original songs were featured in *The Way We Dance* by playwright Kathleen Clark, directed by Marsha Mason. Originally from Deerfield, IL, Danny is a graduate of the University of Michigan (B.M. in Music Education), and of NYU's M.F.A. Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. Danny studied musical theatre writing as one of twelve participants in the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project at Northwestern University, where he worked closely with Lin-Manuel Miranda and Craig Carnelia. Danny's songs have been chosen by William Finn for his concert series *Songs By Ridiculously Talented Composers and Lyricists You Probably Don't Know, But Should* and by Ahrens and Flaherty to feature at the Dramatists Guild National Conference. Danny was a founding member of the Musical Theatre Factory where he also served as its first Managing Director and co-created the acclaimed New Orchestrations project. He has also been selected as a finalist for the Jonathan Larson Grant and the Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre. Danny's music has been featured on TV shows such as *Dance Moms* and *Last Call With Carson Daly* as well as in the films *Waiting in the Wings* and *Missed Connections*. Danny lives in New York City and is currently working on an exciting new musical adaptation, to be announced soon.

Darryl B. Hovis (Director) is an actor, director, and designer, and is the Producing Associate of the Theater for Young Audiences Series at Chance Theater. He earned his MA in Theatre Production at Central Washington University and studied acting at the Professional Conservatory at UCSD under Anna Shapiro (Steppenwolf) as well as South Coast Repertory under Karen Hensel. He is the co-founder and former artistic director of the Culver City Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, where he developed an intensive arts program for high school students in theatre, film, music, and art, and has gone on to develop theatre programs at other Southern California high schools, as well as Theatre International at Leysin American School in Leysin, Switzerland. He has directed a multitude of productions, some of his favorites being *Therese Raquin*, *A History of the American Film* (Chance Theater), *Rent* and *The Threepenny Opera* (Samohi Theatre), *Machinal* and *Resurrecting Antigone* (UniTheatre), and *The Miracle Worker* and *Treehouses* (AVPA).

In addition to Hovis, the production team for ***Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium*** includes three other Chance Theater Resident Artists -- choreographer **Monika Peña** (*Lizzie, The Musical*), lighting designer **Masako Tobaru** (*Big Fish*), and stage manager **Wade Williamson** (*Tigers Be Still*). They are joined by scenic designer **Kristin Campbell** (*Lizzie, The Musical*) and costume designer **Bradley Lock** (*Big Fish*).

Robert Berman is the Executive Producer. Bette & Wylie Aitken are the Season Producers for the entire 2019 schedule.

Special “Relaxed Performance” -- Saturday, October 12 at 11am

The Chance is thrilled to be providing at least one "Relaxed Performance" per show in our TYA Family Series. Relaxed performances are specifically designed to welcome patrons who will benefit from a less restricted audience environment. Patrons of all abilities are welcome, including but not limited to those with intellectual or learning disabilities, sensory processing conditions or autism. There is a relaxed attitude to noise and movement within the auditorium, and some minor production changes may be made to reduce the intensity of light, sound and other potentially startling effects. Babes in arms are also welcome to our relaxed performances.

To schedule press interviews, request photos, schedule press comps or for any additional information, please contact Casey Long at (714) 900-3284 or by e-mail at casey@chancetheater.com.

ABOUT CHANCE THEATER

Proud to be one of the leading ensemble-driven theatre companies in Southern California, CHANCE THEATER has received the National Theatre Company grant from American Theatre Wing for “nurturing a community of artists in ways that strengthen and demonstrate the quality, diversity, and dynamism of American theatre.” The Chance has won six Ovation Awards, including two for Best Production of a Musical – Intimate Theater for its West Coast premiere of *Triassic Park – The Musical* and Southern California premiere of *Jerry Springer – The Opera*, as well as four LADCC Awards, including the Polly Warfield Award for Outstanding Season. The Anaheim City Council named Chance Theater “the Official Resident Theater Company of Anaheim” in 2014, and Arts Orange County has twice named the Chance as “Outstanding Arts Organization.” Known for using bold and personal storytelling to promote dialogue and connection within the Southern California theatrical landscape, the Chance is committed to contributing to a more compassionate, connected and creative community. As a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group, Orange County Theatre Guild, and LA Stage Alliance, Chance Theater continues to bring national attention to the Southern California and Orange County theater scenes.

CALENDAR LISTING

WHAT: Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium

Brooke and Zeke are thrilled to learn that they've won the starring roles in the new school musical — a mysterious production called The Phantom. But when strange, seemingly supernatural events begin interrupting rehearsals, the friends begin to wonder whether the show they're acting in might be cursed. In the slightly spooky, family-friendly world of *Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium*, Brooke and Zeke must race to find out whether they're being haunted by ghosts or hoodwinked by pranksters.

WHEN:

Preview Performances: October 4 - 6, 2019

Fridays at 7pm

Saturday at 5pm

Sunday at 2pm

Regular Performances: October 6 - 27, 2019

Fridays at 7pm

Saturdays at 11am, 2pm, & 5pm

Sundays at 11am, 2pm, & 5pm

Our "Relaxed Performance" is on Saturday, October 12 at 11am.

REVIEWERS and OTHER PRESS are encouraged to attend:

Opening Performance on Sunday, October 6th at 5pm

WHERE: Chance Theater @ Bette Aitken *theater arts* Center, 5522 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807

TICKETS: \$24.00 - \$30.00. Call (888) 455-4212 or visit www.ChanceTheater.com.

Discounts available for children (ages 4+), seniors, students and military.

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