



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

6/27/23

harmenta@nearwesttheatre.org

Contact: Hannah Armenta – Engagement Manager

216-961-9750

"Bring It On - The Musical" takes Near West Theatre to new heights!

Community theatre brings the world of competitive cheerleading to Gordon Square

CLEVELAND – Get ready to experience the ultimate cheerleading showdown as the cast of "Bring It On - The Musical" gets ready to make their mark on the Near West Theatre (NWT) stage. The show will run for three weekends, starting on July 21, in the vibrant Gordon Square Arts District.

Loosely based on the 2000 film of the same name written by Jessica Bendinger, "Bring It On - The Musical" features an original story by Tony Award winner Jeff Whitty (Avenue Q), music and lyrics by Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning composer Lin-Manuel Miranda (In the Heights, Hamilton), music by Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning composer, Tom Kitt (Next to Normal), and lyrics by Broadway lyricist, Amanda Green (High Fidelity). "Bring It On - The Musical" will take audiences on a high-flying journey that is filled with the complexities of friendship, jealousy, betrayal, and forgiveness. This hilarious, high-energy show is certain to have you doing aials and high V's in your seat!

"This show has a score you'll leave humming, and I think it's one of the most difficult NWT has ever tackled," Director Kristy Cruz said. "It also has such impressive choreography and, of course, the cheerleading! I don't believe any other musical currently in existence calls for 'stunting,' so this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see some skills on the NWT stage that you won't ever see again."

"One challenge of choreographing 'Bring It On' is the sheer amount of choreography it requires," Jailyn Harris said. "It's one of those shows where dance and movement are integral to the storytelling. So, finding a way to keep the movement feeling fresh and aligned with what's happening story-wise challenged me to think of different movement vocabularies for the different communities showcased in this show."

The musical runs three weekends through August 6, 2023. Pay What You Can tickets are available. Standard tickets are \$20. Tickets are available at nearwesttheatre.org or by calling the Box Office at 216-961-6391 on weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theater, constructed as part of the Gordon Square Arts District capital campaign, is at 6702 Detroit Avenue. The facility is a state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant building that is climate controlled and fully accessible by wheelchair.

###

About Near West Theatre

Near West Theatre builds loving relationships and engages diverse people in strengthening their sense of identity, passion, and purpose, individually and in community, through accessible, affordable, and transformational theatre arts experiences. Since 1978, Near West Theatre has been shaping, changing, and saving the lives of children, teens, and adults. The community theater hosts a variety of free community events and free after-school programs to underline its commitment to accessibility for all people. The organization serves people of all ages, but a focus on youth goes back to its founding and continues to this day. www.nearwesttheatre.org. @nearwesttheatre. NWT is grateful to receive financial support from the Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. For more information, visit nearwesttheatre.org or follow the theatre on Facebook (facebook.com/nearwesttheatre), Twitter (@NearWestTheatre), or Instagram (@nearwesttheatre).

[TOMBSTONE INFO]

"Bring It On - The Musical"

"Sometimes the greatest victories are the ones that come from the hardest battles."

Teen Summer Production, ages 13 - 19

Original story by Jeff Whitty

Music by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Tom Kitt

Lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda and Amanda Green

Inspired by the Motion Picture *Bring It On* Written by Jessica Bendinger

BRING IT ON is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

Bring It On is rated PG-13. The show contains some profanity.

Near West Theatre Production Cast

Gabrielle Abercrombie, Aneesah Ali, Cora Barcelona, Chelsea Boyles, Paris Bunch, Evangelina Calderon, Bryce Cook, Brian Currie, Livy Douglas, Zoe Frager, Shaylee Frazier, Elisa Gauntner, Blessing Gee, Parker Good, Chloe Hazelwood, Owen Hill, Summer Hussain, Jackson Kenny, Meghan Krieger, Mia Marsala, Kareem Mchaourab, Krystina McMillon, Lily Mihelich, Audrey Morrison, Kai Pennington, Brooke Peterson, Isabella Ramirez, Niya Robinson, Meghan Rogozinski, Michaela Snider, Colin Snider, Mikey Szabo, Mackenzie Thall, Tannayia Thomas, McAllister Thomas, Jules Ziel

Production Staff

Director: Kristy Cruz. Musical Director: Jordan Cooper. Choreographer: Jailyn Harris. Scenic Designer: Perren Hedderson. Costume Designer: Melody Walker. Lighting Designer: Jeremy Paul. Props Designer: Vanessa Cook. Cheer Coach: Hannah Armenta. Stage Manager: Mandalyn Stevens. Assistant Stage Manager: Rachel Ollis. Drama Therapist: Kate Leauge-Weston. Artistic Director: Trinidad Snider.

Performance Dates

Fri. July 21 - 7:30 PM

Sat. July 22 - 7:30 PM

Fri. July 28 - 7:30 PM

Sat. July 29 - 7:30 PM

Sun. July 30 - 2:00 PM

Thurs. Aug. 3 - 7:30 PM

Fri. - Aug. 4 - 7:30 PM

Sat. Aug. 5 - 7:30 PM

Sun. Aug. 6 - 2:00 PM

Suggested Performance Listing

Near West Theatre, 6702 Detroit Ave., Cleveland's Gordon Square Arts District. Box Office: 216-961-6391 or nearwesttheatre.org. "Bring It On - The Musical" runs July 21, 22, 28, 29, and

Aug. 3, 4, 5 at 7:30 p.m.; July 30 and August 6 at 2:00 p.m. General Admission: Standard ticket price is \$20 or Pay What You Choose. "Bring It On" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com.