



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## ***Dreams Come True in “Legally Blonde – The Musical” at Near West Theatre***

***Community theatre brings a story of determination and friendship to heart of the Gordon Square Arts District***

CLEVELAND – July 21, 2024 – Get ready to bend and snap your way to Near West Theatre as “Legally Blonde – The Musical” makes it’s way to our mainstage in our highly anticipated teen summer production. The musical runs three weekends from July 19 to August 4, 2024, at the theatre’s building in the heart of the Gordon Square Arts District.

Based on the hit movie and the novel by Amanda Brown, this fabulously fun and award-winning musical follows Elle Woods as she shows us the true power of determination and believing in yourself. Elle’s world is turned upside down after a breakup, and she decides to leave sunny California to follow her ex to Harvard Law School. While there, she struggles with peers, professors, and her ex, but she finds support through unexpected friendships. What follows is a story of self-discovery, resilience, and empowerment as Elle learns to embrace her true potential and show everyone what she is capable of.

“I believe Legally Blonde is a story that will always resonate with us all as it encourages a love for all parts of oneself, encourages us to fight past what's difficult to discover all we're capable of, and reminds us that we can help others shine while not diminishing our own light,” Director, Kristy Cruz, says. “I hope audiences will leave this production feeling a sense of community, stronger self-worth, and rooting for the underdog, all while having a great time witnessing the incredible work of these teens,” says Cruz.

The choreographer, Jailyn Harris, drew inspiration from college marching bands, HBCU dance/majorette teams, and regionally popular dances. “Dance and movement are very important in the storytelling” Harris says. I think there are a lot of strong moments where the ensemble is moving in a way that helps support Elle on her journey while also highlighting the concept of individuality,” says Harris.

Tickets are on sale now for this production. Tickets are \$20 with Pay What You Choose options available. Tickets are available at [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org) or by calling the Box Office at 216-961-6391 on weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theatre, 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.

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### ***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](http://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](http://nearwesttheatre.org) or follow the theatre on Facebook ([facebook.com/nearwesttheatre](https://facebook.com/nearwesttheatre)) and Instagram (@nearwesttheatre).

### **[TOMBSTONE INFO]**

#### **“Legally Blonde”**

"See dreams really do come true, you never have to compromise."

*Summer Teen Mainstage Production*

*Runtime: 2 hours and 25 minutes, 15-minute intermission*

Music and Lyrics by Book by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin Heather Hach  
Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture  
Original Production by Hal Luftig, Fox Theatricals, Dori Berinstein, James L. Nederlander,  
Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara  
Whitman, FWPM Group, Hendel/Wiesenfeld, Goldberg/Binder, Stern/Meyer, Lane/Comley,  
Bartner-Jenkins/Nocciolino and Warren Trepp; Produced in association with MGM Onstage,  
Darcie Denkert and Dean Stolber.

### Near West Theatre Production Cast

Martin Bala, Maddie Berbec, Jaidyn Bisheimer, Anna Bohrer, Chelsea Boyles, Evangelina Calderon, Bryce Cook, Isaac Cook, Brian Currie, Elizabeth Curtis, Madeline Curtis, Parker Good, Owen Greene, Chloe Hazelwood, Josue Hernandez, Ronald Hubbard, Sophie Hull Summer Hussain, Adam Kennedy, Mickey King, Meghan Krieger, Gabrielle Lykes, Kareem McHaourab, Krystina McMillon, Amaya Moore, Olivia Moore, Peyton Murry, Kai Pennington Brooke Peterson, Isabella Ramirez, Gwyneth Rees, D'Aryl Snead, Colin Snider, Michaela Snider, Mikey Szabo, Esther Tan, Kaiyu Thach, Mack Van Lier, Avery Wrentmore, Isaiah Young, Jules Ziel

### Production Staff

Director: Kristy Cruz. Music Director: Heidi Herczeg. Choreographer: Jailyn Harris. Costume Designer: Vanessa Cook. Props Designer: Venchise Glenn. Scenic Designer: Cameron Michalak. Sound Designer: Joshua Caraballo. Lighting Designer: Rob Wachala. Technical Director: Perren Hedderson. Asst. Technical Director: Emily Hehnen. Production Manager: Michael Stein. Stage Manager: Tyree Franklin. Asst. Stage Manager: Kenedy Brooks. Sound Technicians: Emily Ferrer and Bella Brehm. Artistic Director: Trinidad Snider.

### Performance Dates

Fri. July 19 - 7:30 PM

Sat. July. 20 - 7:30 PM

Fri. July 26 - 7:30 PM

Sat. July 27 - 7:30 PM

Sun. July 28 - 2:00 PM

Fri. Aug. 2 - 7:30 PM

Sat. Aug. 3 - 7:30 PM

Sun. Aug. 4 - 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. "Legally Blonde" runs **July 19, 20, 26, 27, 28 & Aug. 2, 3, 4**. General Admission: Tickets \$20 with Pay What You Choose options available. LEGALLY BLONDE is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.