



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Near West Theatre Presents BKLYN - The Musical: An Urban Fairytale***

***Community theatre brings a bit of New York magic to Cleveland's  
Gordon Square Arts District***

CLEVELAND – January 3, 2023 – Near West Theatre is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of BKLYN the Musical, a captivating and heartwarming story set in the vibrant streets of New York City. The musical runs three weekends from February 2 through February 18, 2024, at the theatre's building in the heart of the Gordon Square Arts District.

BKLYN the Musical is an innovative play within a play, with the show starting beneath the iconic Brooklyn Bridge. Here, a group of talented performers bring the city's heartbeat to life. Led by the charismatic Street Singer, the group tells the tale of a young Parisian singer who crosses the ocean to America, chasing the dream of finding the father she never knew. As she steps into the bustling streets of New York, she finds herself entangled with Paradise, the city's reigning diva. The tension culminates in an electrifying "Battle of the Divas" at Madison Square Garden, a spectacle that promises to leave audiences breathless.

"The story of BKLYN is a heartfelt journey about community, family, and self discovery. The story feels like an urban fairytale and is told through the familiar storytelling traditions," BKLYN Director, Nathan Henry, says.

"Fostering a sense of community, having a place to belong, and feeling loved is something everyone needs and longs for at some point in their life. The actors in our production portray a band of street performers who create an inclusive space for anyone who is searching for a

family or for a home. When I approached Artistic Director Trinidad Snider about producing this musical, we were both in agreement that this is the perfect story to be told at Near West," Henry continued.

Tickets are on sale now for this production. Standard tickets are \$20. Pay What You Choose tickets also are available. Purchase tickets 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. 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]**

#### **"BKLYN The Musical"**

***"A change is on the way, I can feel it for you."***

*Winter Mainstage Production, Recommended for Ages 13 & up*

*Runtime: 2 hours, 15-minute intermission*

Book, Music, and Lyrics by  
Mark Schoenfeld and Barri McPherson

BKLYN The Musical is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC.  
([www.broadwaylicensing.com](http://www.broadwaylicensing.com))

Near West Theatre Production Cast

Chelsea Boyles, Paris Bunch, Margaret Chapman, Jonathon Clarke, Jonathan Conley, Mary Francis Miller, Camila Pinero, Stephanie Samuels, Erin Sheplavy, Geoffrey Short, Kegan Sulamoyo

Production Staff

Director: Nathan Henry. Music Director: Bradley Wyner. Choreographer: Kenya Woods. Costume Designer: Ari Smedley. Props Designer: Mia Jones. Scenic Designer: Richard Morris Jr. Sound Designer: Joshua Caraballo. Lighting Designer: Jesse Ugucini. Technical Director: Perren Hedderson. Asst. Technical Director: Emily Hehnen. Production Manager: Michael Stein. Stage Manager: Tyree Franklin. Asst. Stage Manager: Kenedy Brooks. Sound Technician: James Romeo. Artistic Director: Trinidad Snider.

Performance Dates

Fri. Feb. 2 - 7:30 PM

Sat. Feb. 3 - 7:30 PM

Fri. Feb. 9 - 7:30 PM

Sat. Feb. 10 - 7:30 PM

Sun. Feb. 11 - 2:00 PM

Thurs. Feb. 15 - 7:30 PM

Fri. - Feb. 16 - 7:30 PM

Sat. Feb. 17 - 7:30 PM

Sun. Feb. 18 - 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. "BKLYN The Musical" runs **Feb. 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb 11 & 18 at 2:00 p.m.** General Admission: Standard ticket price: \$20 and Pay What You Choose. "BKLYN The Musical" is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC. ([www.broadwaylicensing.com](http://www.broadwaylicensing.com))

