

# ALLEY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 10, 2022

Media Contacts:

Caroline Austin, PR and Communications Manager, [carolinea@alleytheatre.org](mailto:carolinea@alleytheatre.org), 713.315.3335

## Alley Theatre Announces the Cast & Creative Team of Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me A Soprano*

### *Ken Ludwig's Beloved Comedy Gets a Feminine Twist*

HOUSTON TX - The Tony Award®-winning Alley Theatre announces the cast and creative team of its world premiere production – *Lend Me A Soprano*, written by Tony-Award Winner **Ken Ludwig**. This hilarious production runs **September 16 – October 9, 2022**, in the Hubbard Theatre and is directed by **Eleanor Holdridge**.

Ken Ludwig, America's preeminent comic playwright returns to the Alley with this all-new play. Alley Theatre has produced two classic Ludwig plays- *The Three Musketeers* and Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, as well as four world premieres- *Be My Baby*, *An American In Paris*, *Leading Ladies*, and *Treasure Island*. Ludwig debuts his latest play, *Lend Me A Soprano*, to kick off the season. The play is set in 1934, when the clever and combustible Lucille Wiley, Manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company, is ready to welcome world-class soprano Elena Firenzi for her one-night-only starring role in *Carmen*. Alas, Elena arrives late, her impassioned husband Pasquale has a fit of jealousy, and it remains to be seen whether Mrs. Wiley's mousy but determined assistant Jo can save the day. Based on Ludwig's hit comedy *Lend Me A Tenor*, the roles are reversed, and the ladies take the lead in this madcap screwball comedy guaranteed to leave audiences teary-eyed with laughter.

"*Lend Me A Tenor* was my first Broadway play, and 30 years later, it continues to be produced all over the world in dozens of languages," shares playwright **Ken Ludwig**. "So why did I futz with it? Over the course of my career, I've had the good fortune to work with many extraordinary comic actresses. That got me thinking: 'where would this play take me if the three male lead characters were women?' So, I turned *Lend Me A Tenor* upside down and kept the basic plot. The world may have changed, but it needs laughter more than ever. I hope that Alley Theatre audiences enjoy this new play as much as I enjoyed writing it."

"It is such a delight to have Ken Ludwig back at the Alley," shares Artistic Director **Rob Melrose**. "Ken's relationship to the Alley goes back decades. In my short time at the Alley, this is the third Ken Ludwig play. I remember the first time I saw *Lend Me a Tenor* over thirty years ago and absolutely loving it. The play went on to Broadway to be nominated for nine Tony awards, ultimately winning two. So, when Ken told me that he wanted to rewrite the play with women in the leading roles, I jumped at the chance for the Alley to be part of it. I'm so proud for the Alley to bring another world premiere production of a Ken Ludwig comedy into the world."

The cast of Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me A Soprano* includes **Ellen Harvey** (Broadway: *How To Succeed in Business... Phantom Of The Opera*) as Mrs. Wylie, **Mia Pinero** (Broadway: *West Side Story*) as Jo, and **Alexandra Silber** (Broadway: *Fiddler On The Roof*, West End: *Indecent*) as Elena Firenzi.

Rounding out the cast is **Orlando Arriaga** (*72 Miles To Go...*, *Quixote Nuevo*) as Pasquale, **Steven Good** as Leo, **Brandon Hearnberger** (*A Christmas Carol*) as Jerry, **Susan Koozin** (*Clue*, *Murder on the Orient Express*) as Julia, and **Skyler Sinclair** (*Crimes of the Heart*) as Beverly.

# ALLEY THEATRE

The creative team of Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me A Soprano* includes Scenic Designer **Klara Zieglerova**, Costume Designer **Helen Huang**, Lighting Designer **Jorge Arroyo**, Sound Designer **Jane Shaw**, Fight Director & Intimacy Specialist **Adam Noble**, New York Casting by **JZ Casting (Geoff Josselson, CSA; Katja Zarolinski, CSA)**, Stage Manager **Rachel Dooley-Harris**, and Assistant Stage Manager **Ryan Barrett**.

**PRESS NIGHT:** Wednesday, September 21 at 7:30pm. Invitations will be sent at a later date.

**SPONSORS:** Alley Theatre is supported by the 2022-23 Season sponsors United Airlines, the official airline of Alley Theatre, and Hampton Inn and Homewood Suites Downtown Houston, the official hotel of Alley Theatre.

**TICKETS:** Tickets to Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me A Soprano* are now on sale and start at \$26. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, and any student or educator, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for designated performances. Tickets can be ordered online ([alleytheatre.org](http://alleytheatre.org)) or by phone (713.220.5700).

**PHOTOS:** [Advance - Dropbox](#)

**CONNECT WITH US:** @alleytheatre, #AlleySoprano

## ABOUT ALLEY THEATRE:

Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley is committed to developing and producing theatre that is as diverse as the Houston community. The Alley produces up to 11 plays and nearly 400 performances each season, ranging from the best current work and classic plays to new plays by contemporary writers. Home to a full-time resident company of actors and expert artisans in all theatre crafts, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, directors, designers, composer, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

Alley Theatre performs at the Meredith J. Long Theatre Center which is comprised of two state-of-the-art theatres: the 774-seat Hubbard Theatre and the 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre. The Alley reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance, education, and community engagement programs.

###