

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alley Theatre Announces the Cast & Creative Team of World-Premiere Musical *Cowboy Bob*

Broadway veterans and Houston favorites take the stage in this rock musical loosely based on a prolific Texas bank robber, Peggy Jo Tallas.

HOUSTON TX - The Tony Award®-winning Alley Theatre announces the cast and creative team of ***Cowboy Bob***. The new musical ***Cowboy Bob***, created by **Molly Beach Murphy** of Galveston, **Jeanna Phillips & Annie Tippe**, with music and lyrics by **Jeanna Phillips**, book and additional lyrics by **Molly Beach Murphy**, additional music by **Alex Thraikill**, directed and choreographed by **Annie Tippe** and runs March 3 – 26, 2023 in the Hubbard Theatre.

One wouldn't look twice at Peggy Jo. She's a good daughter, always tips, plays by the rules – but when she dons a fake mustache, sunglasses, and ten-gallon hat, she becomes "Cowboy Bob"- the slickest bank robber Texas has ever known. Inspired by actual events, this world-premiere musical tells the story of one of the FBI's most unusual suspects through the eyes of a chain-restaurant waitress desperate to buck her flavorless life and awaken to all that's possible. With a genre-bending score that shifts from country to punk to folk and indie rock, *Cowboy Bob* is a defiant rejection of the status quo, inviting audiences to take life by the reins, join the heist, and let it ride.

"This show has a very contemporary energy and a great sound created by three brilliant artists," said Alley Theatre Artistic Director **Rob Melrose**. "We are especially pleased to welcome Molly back to the Alley. She was one of the Alley's artists in residence at our new play development program Ucross in our inaugural year. I'm also excited to be working with producers Sally Cade Holmes and David Denson who are helping make the production at the Alley succeed and ensuring that *Cowboy Bob* has an exciting trajectory after the Alley."

"*Cowboy Bob* is the story of becoming who you've always wanted to be," shares **Molly Beach Murphy**. "Peggy Jo is almost a tall tale, a mythical Texas figure through whom you can project all your fantasies. Our story, of a waitress inspired by Peggy's life, is a thrilling chase, a warm gift of hope, and a rocking good time. I'm so excited to share this wild funny heartfelt gripping story with my hometown audiences. Growing up in Galveston, the chance to see a show at the Alley was always a joy and a beacon. It is a deep honor to return to premiere this musical at the theatre that taught me what theatre can be."

"In the process of writing this piece, Molly, Annie, and I keep coming back to the notion that we are all the hero of our own story," shares **Jeanna Phillips**. "So, every time a character takes the stage to sing in *Cowboy Bob*, they are the headliner of the rock show of their mind. Music provides a psychological space where characters are empowered to croon their confessions and belt out their victories, and the arrangements and orchestrations are carefully crafted to create a sonic world unique to each person. The songs are also full of driving rhythms and soaring melodies that, we hope, bring our audience right to the beating heart of our story."

“Alley Audiences will be in for a visual treat,” shares **Annie Tippe**. “In addition to the vibrant, genre-zagging score and the heartfelt and humorous script, this production will take folks on a real aesthetic ride. If this piece offers broad themes about transformation of the self, the design goes even further, surprising us at every turn with its ability to shapeshift right before our eyes. Our designers reference classic Hollywood Western archetypes but turn them upside down with vigor and wit. There's also a healthy nod to a good old fashioned Rock show, replete with some fabulous concert lighting. I hope people feel equally moved and transported by our production!”

The cast of *Cowboy Bob* includes **Jackie Burns** (Broadway's longest-running Elphaba in *Wicked*) as Peggy Jo Tallas and **Ashley Pérez Flanagan** (Broadway: *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* and *Freestyle Love Supreme*) as Rena, **Adam Gibbs** (*Amerikin, A Christmas Carol*) as Cop Hank, **Brandon Hearnberger** (Ken Ludwig's *Lend Me A Soprano, A Christmas Carol*) as Manager Bill, **Susan Koozin** (*Clue, Lend Me A Soprano*) as Jerry “Ma” Tallas, **Julia Krohn** as Kathy (*The Three Musketeers, Freaky Friday*), **Camryn Nunley** as Cop Roy, **Jamila Sabares-Klemm** (Broadway: *Merrily We Roll Along*) as Tanya and **Nathaniel Tenenbaum** (5th Avenue Theatre: *The Wiz*) as Stan.

The creative team includes Scenic Designer **Diggle**, Costume Designer **Haydee Zelideth**, Lighting Designer **Christopher Bowser**, Sound Designer Tony-winner **Jessica Paz**, Projection Designer **Stivo Arnoczy**, Music Supervisor and Orchestrator **Alex Thrailkill**, Orchestrator and Vocal Arranger **Mike Brun**, Music Director **Ada Westfall**, New York Casting **Stewart/Whitley**, Fight Director & Intimacy Specialist **Adam Noble**, Production Stage Manager **Erin Gioia Albrecht**, and Assistant Stage Managers **Emily Bohannon** and **Ethan Mitchell**.

Cowboy Bob is produced by special arrangement with **Sally Cade Holmes** and **David Denson (Red Tail Entertainment)**.

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday, March 8 at 7:30pm. Invitations will be sent at a later date.

SPONSORS: *Cowboy Bob* is generously sponsored by Ken and Mady Kades (Producers), Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards (Honorary Producer), and Baker Botts, Butch and Carmen Mach, and Jesse and Cathy Marion (Associate Producers). 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 *Cowboy Bob* 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) or by phone (713.220.5700).

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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, composers, 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.

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