

Tuesday 19 October 2021

TRP Press Contact: Savanna Myszka, savanna.myszka@theatreroyal.com

For Immediate Release

**CHELSEA HALFPENNY TO STAR AS 'JENNA' IN THE UK AND
IRELAND TOUR OF THE SMASH HIT ROMANTIC MUSICAL
COMEDY 'WAITRESS' ALONGSIDE SANDRA MARVIN AS
'BECKY', EVELYN HOSKINS AS 'DAWN' AND MATT WILLIS AS
'DR POMATTER'**

Producers Barry & Fran Weissler and David Ian are delighted to announce that **Chelsea Halfpenny** will join the cast as Jenna in the smash hit romantic musical comedy **WAITRESS** as from 10 January 2022. Chelsea will take over the role from Lucie Jones who leaves the production to move on to a soon to be announced new project. **WAITRESS is coming to Theatre Royal Plymouth from 21 – 26 March 2022, with tickets available to book now on the [TRP website](#).**

Chelsea will join **Sandra Marvin** as 'Becky', **Evelyn Hoskins** as 'Dawn' and Busted's **Matt Willis** as 'Dr Pomatter'. Tour and casting schedule below. waitressthemusical.co.uk

They are be joined by **George Crawford** as 'Ogie', **Michael Starke** as 'Joe' **Tamlyn Henderson** as 'Earl' and **Christopher D. Hunt** as 'Cal'. The company also includes **Monique Ashe-Palmer, Amelia Atherton, Donal Brennan, Aimée Fisher, Scarlet Gabriel, Nathanael Landskroner, Charlie Martin, Liam McHugh, Olivia Mitchell, Ben Morris** and **Brian Roland**.

Chelsea Halfpenny began her career in the popular children's television series Byker Grove. She appeared as 'Amy Wyatt' in Emmerdale for three years and 'Alice Munroe' in Casualty, a part she played for four years. Chelsea recently made her West End debut as 'Judy Bernly' in 9 to 5 The Musical at the Savoy Theatre.

Having played 'Jessie Grant' in ITV's Emmerdale for two years, **Sandra Marvin** joined the West End production of Waitress to play 'Becky'. Her many other West End theatre credits include most recently 'Mrs Fezziwig/Mrs Mops' in A Christmas Carol at the Dominion Theatre, City of Angels and Committee at the Donmar Warehouse, 'Miss Motormouth Maybelle' in Hairspray at the Shaftesbury Theatre, 'Queenie' in Show Boat at the New London Theatre, 'Rose' in Stepping Out at the Vaudeville Theatre, Porgy and Bess at the Savoy Theatre and Ragtime and A Midsummer Night's Dream at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. Her other credits include Romantics Anonymous at Bristol Old Vic and on tour in the US and 'Mama Morton' in Chicago at Leicester Curve. In 2016 Sandra performed with Kate Bush on her 22 date sold-out Before the Dawn concerts and features on her live album of the same name. Sandra also sings

the title track on the Grammy Award winning soundtrack for the George Clooney film, Gravity.

Evelyn Hoskins most recently played the role of 'Dawn' in Waitress in the West End at the Adelphi Theatre. Her other theatre credits include the title role in Carrie at Southwark Playhouse, Spring Awakening at the Lyric Hammersmith and in the West End, Assassins at the Nottingham Playhouse and Watermill Theatre, Mrs Henderson Presents at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto, Peter and the Starcatcher at Northampton's Royal & Derngate, This Is My Family at Sheffield Crucible and on UK Tour, The Boy Who Fell Into A Book at the Stephen Joseph Theatre and The Secret Garden at Birmingham Rep.

Matt Willis is probably best known as a member of the double Brit Award winning band Busted, who have released four No1 UK singles, two platinum albums and sold over four million albums in the UK. No stranger to the musical theatre stage, his West End credits include 'Fiyero' in Wicked at the Apollo Victoria, 'Nick Hurley' in Flashdance at the Shaftesbury Theatre and most recently 'Bob Cratchit' in A Christmas Carol at the Dominion Theatre. His other theatre credits include 'Orin Scrivello' in Little Shop of Horrors at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and 'Chuck Cranson' in the national tour of Footloose The Musical.

WAITRESS is based on the 2007 movie written by Adrienne Shelly. Music and lyrics are written by GRAMMY award-winning, singer-songwriter sensation Sara Bareilles, who appeared on the Graham Norton TV show, performing the hit song from the show She Used To Be Mine. With a book by Jessie Nelson, direction by Tony-award winner Diane Paulus and choreography by Lorin Latarro, Waitress has garnered multiple awards and nominations in both America and the UK, receiving acclaim from both audiences and critics alike.

WAITRESS opened on Broadway on 24th April 2016 at the **Brooks Atkinson Theatre**, where it ran until 5th January 2020. **Waitress** celebrated its official opening night at the **Adelphi Theatre** in London's West End on 7 March 2019. The North American tour of **Waitress** is currently on hold due to COVID-19. **Waitress** is currently on tour in Japan (Japanese language production), and is set to open in Australia and Holland.

WAITRESS tells the story of Jenna, an expert pie maker in a small town, who dreams of a way out of her loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town's new doctor may offer her a chance at a new life, while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes to happiness. But Jenna must find the courage and strength within herself to rebuild her life. This beautiful musical celebrates friendship, motherhood, and the magic of a well-made pie.

Book by Jessie Nelson

Music and Lyrics by Grammy Award-winner Sara Bareilles

Based upon the motion picture written by Adrienne Shelly

Directed by Tony Award-winner Diane Paulus

WAITRESS was originally produced by **Barry & Fran Weissler** and **Norton and Elayne Herrick**. The tour is produced by **Barry & Fran Weissler** and **David Ian Productions**.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

ENDS

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on public.relations@theatreroyal.com / 01752 230439

Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP) is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales as the South West's principal centre for performing arts.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.

Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.