

A NEW MUSICAL
BY

ASHLEY
GRIFFIN

EVAN JAY
NEWMAN



WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN
EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED?

LYRA

A DARK FAIRY TALE


BASED ON "THE LITTLE MERMAID" BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN



WELCOME TO THE
GREAT SCHAUSTELLER'S

PHANTASMAGORIA





**HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN'S
"THE LITTLE MERMAID" SET IN A
DUSTBOWL ERA CIRCUS**

Created by Broadway and Cirque du Soleil artists, LYRA is a unique combination of traditional musical theater and a European circus aesthetic. LYRA uses circus arts, not as a spectacle, but, along with music and dance, as a means by which to advance the story. A beautiful, innocent young girl, a tragic clown and an omnipotent magician set the stage for a tale of love, sacrifice, dreams and escape.

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THE CONCEPT



THE STORY

Unlike its more commonly known adaptations, the original LITTLE MERMAID is quite dark and deals with very deep themes – the nature, and importance of the human soul and the power of sacrificial love. LYRA stays thematically true to the original narrative and, given the nature of it being a magical, otherworldly fairy tale, it provides the perfect story whereby to utilize a circus vocabulary.

LYRA takes place in a dustbowl era circus run by Mr. Wednesday - an omnipotent illusionist using the circus as a front to collect people's souls. Lyra, the young, intelligent singer is the only member of the circus who did not trade her soul to be there. Born into this magical world, her only wish is to "run away and join real life." So when a young man provides her first hope of escape, she makes a deal with Mr. Wednesday to earn her freedom, leaving behind her one friend, the clown Pierrot, and the only world she has ever known. But, intent on winning Lyra's soul, Mr. Wednesday begins a diabolical game that will test the power of love and forgiveness.

THE CHARACTERS



THE CLOWN

PIERROT

LEAD CLOWN OF THE CIRCUS WHO SOLD HIS SOUL TO GET EVERYTHING HE EVER WANTED...AND WILL SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE WORKING TO BE THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD HAVE NEVER DONE SUCH A THING



THE BOY

REVE

THE KIND-HEARTED, WIDE-EYED SMALL TOWN YOUNG MAN WHO FALLS A LITTLE TOO HARD FOR THE FANTASY OF THE BEAUTIFUL SINGER AT SHAUSTELLER'S PHANTASMAGORIA



THE STAR

LYRA

SCHAUSTELLER'S DAUGHTER. FORCED INTO THE WORLD OF THE CIRCUS, IT'S NOW THE ONLY LIFE SHE'S EVER KNOWN. THE BRIGHT, SPIRITED VOCALIST WHO MORE THAN ANYTHING WANTS TO "RUN AWAY AND JOIN REAL LIFE"



THE ILLUSIONIST

MR. WEDNESDAY

THE OMNIPOTENT CREATOR OF SCHAUSTELLER'S PHANTASMAGORIA WHO USES THE CIRCUS AS A FRONT TO COLLECT PEOPLE'S SOULS. MAD, BAD AND DANGEROUS TO KNOW. BUT, OH...YOU CAN'T HELP MAKING A DEAL WITH HIM ...



THE ASSISTANT

AMELIA

MR. WEDNESDAY'S RIGHT HAND WOMAN FOR OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS. SHE WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR HIM....AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES HER BORING



THE SHOWMAN

SCHAUSTELLER

TRADED HIS SOUL TO BE THE GREATEST IMPRESARIO IN THE WORLD. HE WOULDN'T CHANGE A THING...NO MATTER WHO HIS FANTASIES DESTROY



Ashley Griffin

(Book, Lyrics, additional Music)

Ashley Griffin is a Broadway writer/performer best known as the first person in history to be nominated for a major award for both playing and directing HAMLET (for a theatrical production.) As a writer her work has been produced/developed at New World Stages, MTC, Playwrights Horizons and more. She won the WellLife Network award and received a county commendation for her hit off-Broadway play TRIAL (directed by Lori Petty) currently in talks for a transfer. Her work has made national news and been praised by MTV, E! EW and more. She has worked as a Broadway ghost writer/dramaturg and is the author of two bestselling novels, THE SPINDLE and BLANK PAIGE. She has written for film and T.V. and has been nominated for five NYIT Awards. www.ashleygriffinofficial.com



Evan Jay Newman

(Music)

Evan is an accomplished actor, music director, and composer. As a child, he performed in Broadway's LES MISERABLES and Paul Simon's THE CAPEMAN, A CHRISTMAS CAROL at Madison Square Garden, and the first national tour of BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. Recently, he most notably played the role of Frankie in JERSEY BOYS. Evan assisted Broadway composer Andrew Lippa on numerous projects, Alex Lacamoire on HIGH FIDELITY, and James Sampliner on LEGALLY BLONDE. He served as Music Director for the national/international tour of Green Day's AMERICAN IDIOT and THE SIMON & GARFUNKEL STORY, as well as AMD for the national tours of MAMMA MIA! and Rodgers and Hammerstein's CINDERELLA. Evan contributed original music and lyrics to the Broadway bound FAT KID RULES THE WORLD and music for SPECTACLE: THE MUSICAL! (in which he also stars). www.evanjaynewman.net



THE MUSIC

For
demo / performance
highlights please
click

[HERE](#)

2015 - Sold out off-Broadway presentations at The Triad Theater

2015 - Sold out performance at 54 Below

2018-2019 - Development in residence at A.R.T., the Access Theater Company and Streb, including collaboration with Broadway and Cirque du Soleil artists.

2020 - Music enters featured rotation on Musical Theater Radio

2021 - Finalist for the Syracuse New Works New Voices Program

PROJECT HISTORY



VISUAL IMAGERY

TO SEE OUR FULL LOOK BOOK CLICK
HERE





SHOW REQUIREMENTS

LYRA can be performed with a minimum cast of ten and a band of five (Keyboard 1, Keyboard 2, Drums, Bass, Guitar). This is a piece that requires circus elements - (Aerial Hoop, Silks, Tight Rope, Acrobatics, Clowning, Illusion/Magic) and needs to be performed in a space with a grid high enough to accommodate those apparatuses.

The piece can be paired down (in “Les Sept Doigts De La Main” fashion), or large form spectacle. All cast members need to have a varied skill set - with specific requirements for each character (Lyra must sing, act, dance, perform aerial and minimal acrobats, Pierrot must act, sing, play the ukulele and be a physical comedian, etc.)

CONTACT US.

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WEBSITE

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