

MEDIA CONTACT

Maya Bryant
Communications Manger
North Carolina Theatre
mbryant@nctheatre.com
(919) 831-6941 x6952
For Immediate Release
May 27, 2021



ANNOUNCES FULL CAST & CREATIVE TEAM FOR

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

Music and Lyrics by **JASON ROBERT BROWN**

Directed by **ERIC WOODALL**

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre, New York City, 1995

(Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

Original Orchestration by Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown

FEATURING:

ADAM JACOBS, SYDNEY MORTON, KYLE TAYLOR PARKER, CHRISTINE SHERRILL

OPENING NIGHT JULY 27, 2021

LIMITED ENGAGEMENT THROUGH AUGUST 1, 2021

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT NCTHEATRE.COM

DOWNLOAD CAST HEADSHOTS [HERE](#)

(May 27, 2021 - Raleigh, NC) **North Carolina Theatre**, the region's premiere nonprofit professional regional theatre, is excited to announce the cast and creative team for ***Songs for a New World*** by Tony Award-winner **Jason Robert Brown**, directed by **Eric Woodall**. *Songs for a New World* is North Carolina Theatre's first production since the COVID-19 pandemic forced a global hiatus on in-person gatherings in March of 2020. Performances will run from July 27- August 1 at **Raleigh Memorial Auditorium** at Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh. North Carolina Theatre will also present a digital filming of *Songs for a New World* online from July 30-August 1, allowing audiences to view from the comfort of home. This will be North Carolina Theatre's inaugural full-length digital production. "NCT has safely prepared this fantastic production to be among the first to emerge and attend to, bring joy to, and help strengthen our community through live arts and entertainment. Together for the first time in over a year, we'll experience the power and catharsis of live theatrical performance at its very best," said President & CEO **Elizabeth Doran**. "With the highest level of new industry certification for cleanliness and ventilation and new measures for health and safety for all at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts, we will welcome you back with a show that acknowledges our common humanity in the face of change, and does so with joy, wisdom, hope, and uplifting and stunningly beautiful music."

The cast of *Songs for a New World* will include **Adam Jacobs** (*Aladdin*, *The Lion King*, and *Les Misérables* on Broadway), **Sydney Morton** (*Memphis*, *Evita*, *Motown*, and *American Psycho* on Broadway), **Kyle Taylor Parker** (*Kinky Boots* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* on Broadway), and **Christine Sherrill** (*Gypsy* at NCT). North Carolina natives **Melvin Gray, Jr.** and **Kate McMillan** will be the male and female standbys.

Songs for a New World will feature choreography by **Jose Rondon, Jr.**, scenic design by **Becca Johnson**, costume design by **LeGrande Smith**, lighting design by **Samuel Rushen**, sound design by **Eric Alexander Collins**, video design by **Joshua Reaves**, and Video and B-Roll Capture by **Trés Bruce**. **Edward Robison** will serve as the Music Director, **Rick Hip-Flores** as Associate Music Director & Pianist, **Joyce Hawkins** as the Hair/Makeup Supervisor, **Corina Matos Aguilera**, as the Properties & Covid Compliance Officer, **Bill Yates, Jr.** as the Technical Director, **Alan Coats** as the AEA Stage Manager, **Katie Caudle** as the AEA Assistant Stage Manager and **Jesse Kapsha**, Rehearsal Pianist & Overture Singer Accompanist.

"How to move forward? What is a new-normal? In this past year, we have all faced a world of uncertainty. We believe that opening our 2021-2022 season with this enchanting show of uplifting music, perfectly embodies our season's theme: *Find your voice and chart your own path*," said Producing Artistic Director, **Eric Woodall**. "The characters in this show use love and laughter to make some paramount life decisions, which helps them commence upon exciting new paths ahead."

Songs for a New World is a sung-through musical, filled with original Jazz, Blues, Gospel and Broadway-inspired songs connected by common theme: "The moment of decision." This show is about facing new circumstances and discovering how to navigate through evolving situations to create a new world.

This show is recommended for ages 13+ due to adult language.

Songs for a New World opens Tuesday, July 27 and runs through Sunday, August 1 in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium at Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts and online from Friday, July 30 – August 1, 2021. Tickets are available now for season subscribers. Single tickets and digital access will go on sale on June 8, 2021.

Songs for a New World is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Season Ticket Information

Season subscriptions start at \$232 for all six shows and are now available to purchase online and through the North Carolina Theatre Box Office. Single tickets and tickets to the digital production will go on sale on June 8, 2021. For more information, please visit nctheatre.com or call the North Carolina Theatre Box Office at (919) 831- 6941. Virtual Tickets will only be sold to local patrons and subscribers.

About North Carolina Theatre

Established in 1984, North Carolina Theatre is Raleigh's premier non-profit professional regional theatre. With its successful formula of producing top quality musicals with top national performers and local talent, North Carolina Theatre has been instrumental in the revitalization of downtown Raleigh over the years. Through its Conservatory, it has provided exceptional arts training to hundreds of local youths. By offering broad access to live theatre, while strengthening economic growth, the organization continues to fortify the cultural vitality of the region. North Carolina Theatre is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.

###

Bios

ADAM JACOBS (*Man 2*) is most known for originating the role of “Aladdin” in Disney’s *Aladdin* on Broadway for which he received a Drama Desk and Grammy nomination. Other Broadway credits include “Simba” in *The Lion King*, and “Marius” in *Les Misérables*. Favorite regional credits include US Premiere of *Zorro* at Alliance Theatre (Suzi nomination), *Once on This Island* at Paper Mill Playhouse, and *Something Rotten* at the Marriott Theatre, IL. TV: *Soundtrack*, *Chicago Med*, *The Bachelorette*, The 68th Annual Tony Awards, *Good Morning America*. BFA Theater from NYU. Adam’s debut solo album, *Right Where I Belong* featuring songs of Alan Menken, is available on iTunes and Spotify.

SYDNEY MORTON (*Woman 1*) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she developed a love of music and acting. These interests led her to study Shakespeare at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, and to The University of Michigan, where she received a BFA in Musical Theatre. Upon graduating, she moved to New York and performed in four Original Broadway Casts: *Memphis*, *Evita*, *Motown*, and *American Psycho*. Her theater career has taken her around the country in shows such as *Jersey Boys* (Chicago company), “Alex” in the First National Tour of *Flashdance*, “Esmeralda” at Ogunquit Playhouse’s *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and “Zoe” at Berkeley Repertory Theater’s controversial and critically-acclaimed *An Octoroon*. In addition to theater, Sydney can be seen in Spike Lee’s *She’s Gotta Have It* as “Cheryl Overstreet” on Netflix; season three of *Manifest* as “Alex” on NBC; and the mini-series *Self-Made* as “Dora Larrie” on Netflix. Currently starring as “Meghan Markle” in the Lifetime Movie, *Harry & Meghan: Escaping The Palace*.

KYLE TAYLOR PARKER (*Man 1*) made his Broadway debut in April 2013, when he originated the role of “Angel” in *Kinky Boots*. Parker went on to perform the lead, “Lola,” on the first national tour of the show (*IRNE Award, best visiting Actor in a musical*) before replacing Billy Porter as “Lola” on Broadway in 2015. In April 2017 he was part of the original Broadway cast of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which opened in New York shortly after closing in the West End. In 2018 he was a member of the ensemble of NBC’s *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert* on NBC. During 2021, Parker released his second self-titled album, “Kyle Taylor Parker: Broadway Soul, Vol 2” with Broadway Records.

CHRISTINE SHERRILL (*Woman 2*) known for her versatility, heart and vocal prowess, Ms. Sherrill enjoys a robust career in New York as a stage, screen, and motion caption artist. Chicago raised, New York based, Christine has garnered many awards while touring nationally at some of the country’s most prestigious venues: D.C. Shakespeare, Ravinia Festival, The Goodman Theatre, Orpheum, Shubert, and the Oriental Theatres. Ms. Sherrill held a residency in Las Vegas while winning critical acclaim for her portrayal as “Donna” in ABBA’s *Mamma Mia*. Our NCT family may remember Christine for her portrayal as “Mama Rose” in our 2018 production of *Gypsy*. Her career has included a vast range of work including “Kate”-*Kiss Me Kate*, “Diana”-*Next to Normal*, “Adelaide”-*Guys and Dolls*. Winner of Chicago’s Joseph Jefferson 2013 award for her performance as “Norma Desmond,” *Sunset Boulevard*.