

EDITORS: PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE REVISIONS INCLUDED BELOW

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Elisa Hale at (860) 873-8664, ext. 323
Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org
Dan McMahon at (860) 873-8664, ext. 324
Dan.McMahon@goodspeed.org

**“I'M IN WITH THE IN CROWD,
I GO WHERE THE IN CROWD GOES”**

CAST ANNOUNCED FOR *A SIGN OF THE TIMES*

FEATURING BOOK BY EMMY AWARD-WINNING COMEDY WRITER
BRUCE VILANCH

*GOODSPEED'S NEW MUSICAL FEATURING POP HITS FROM THE 60'S
BEGINS JULY 29 AT THE TERRIS THEATRE*

EAST HADDAM, CONN., JUNE 28, 2016: This is the story of Cindy, a 20-something whose dreams are bigger than her Midwestern hometown will allow. Set against the backdrop of New York City in the 1960s – women’s liberation, the civil rights movement, and protests of the Vietnam war – Cindy searches for her place in the world. *A Sign of the Times*, featuring chart-topping hits from the 1960s, celebrates friendship, love, and discovering one’s sense of self. This pop-fueled musical will run July 29 – September 4 at The Terris Theatre in Chester, Conn. *A Sign of the Times* will be sponsored by Essex Savings Bank.

1965. The pulse of a changing era lures Cindy from Middle America to the swirl of Manhattan. Unexpected friends, lovers, careers, and conflicts are all a subway ride away in a pop-fueled new musical featuring songs made famous by **Petula Clark** and other hit-makers of the day. "I Know a Place," "The Shoop Shoop Song," and "If I Can Dream" are among the fabulous favorites on an eye-opening ride from innocence to experience. Forget all your troubles, forget all your cares – go "Downtown" and find out who you are!

A Sign of the Times includes popular hits by Petula Clark, as well as classics by **Elvis Presley**, **Lesley Gore**, **Nancy Sinatra**, and **Fontella Bass**. The musical’s original book is by Emmy Award-winning writer **Bruce Vilanch**. Vilanch’s career as writer and performer spans the worlds of television, film, and stage. For television he has written for shows as diverse as “The Brady Bunch Variety Hour,” “Donnie and Marie,” “Comic Relief,” and “Hollywood Squares,” as well as serving several years as head writer for the Academy Awards. For Broadway, Bruce not only appeared as Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*, but wrote the book for the musical *Platinum* and penned special material for a number of revues and concerts for the likes of **Bette Midler**, **Michael Feinstein**, and **Diana Ross**, among others. The story of *A Sign of the Times*

was created by **Richard Robin**. This production made possible by special arrangement with Richard Robin, president of Wells Street Productions.

Cindy will be played by **Ephie Aardema** who appeared in the Broadway production of *The Bridges of Madison County* and Goodspeed's Terris Theatre production of *Snapshots*. **Robert Lenzi** from Broadway's *Tuck Everlasting*, and *South Pacific* will play Brian. The role of Dennis will be played by **Bryan Fenkart** who performed in the cast of Broadway's *Memphis*. Matt will be played by **Nick Bailey** whose credits include the Broadway production *Casa Valentina*. Tanya will be played by **Crystal Lucas-Perry** who most recently played Madison in *Little Children Dream of God* at the Roundabout Theatre.

The ensemble includes **Lauren Boyd** (Broadway's *West Side Story*), **Lauren Nicole Chapman** (Broadway's *Kinky Boots*), **Melessie Clark**, **Drew Franklin** (*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at The Goodspeed and Broadway's *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*), **Jeremy Gaston** (1st National Tour of *Sister Act*), **Alexandra Matteo** (Broadway's *Annie*), **Keven Quillon** (Broadway's *Grease*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *Annie*), **Kevin Santos** (Broadway's *In the Heights* and the National Tours of *A Chorus Line*, and *West Side Story*), **Dave Schoonover** (National Tour of *Young Frankenstein*), and **Alet Taylor** (National Tour and Las Vegas productions of *The Producers*) who will play Cleo.

A Sign of the Times will be directed by **Gabriel Barre**. Mr. Barre has directed numerous productions for Goodspeed Musicals including *Camille Claudel*, *King of Hearts*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Houdini*, and *Fanny Hill*. In 2012 Mr. Barre directed *Amazing Grace* at The Terris Theatre and again in 2015 on Broadway. Off-Broadway he directed **Andrew Lippa's** *The Wild Party*; *Son of a Gun*; *Cyrano*; *Summer of '42*; *Stars in Your Eyes*; *Honky-Tonk Highway*; *John & Jen*; and *Almost, Maine*. As a performer he appeared on Broadway in *Rags*, *Starmites*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Ain't Broadway Grand*.

JoAnn M. Hunter will serve as Choreographer. Ms. Hunter's Broadway credits for choreography include Associate Choreographer for *All Shook Up*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Curtains* and Choreographer for the recent hits *School of Rock—The Musical*, and *Disaster!*. As a dancer, she performed on Broadway in *Miss Saigon*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Damn Yankees*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, among others. She returns to The Terris Theatre where she served as an Assistant Choreographer for the 2004 Goodspeed production of *Princesses*.

Scenic Design will be by **Paul Tate dePoo III** who most recently served as the Scenic Designer for Goodspeed's *Guys and Dolls* and the Associate Designer for Broadway's *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*. Costumes are designed by **Jennifer Caprio** whose credits include the Broadway's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, as well as Goodspeed's *LMNOP* at The Terris Theatre. Lighting Design will be by **Ken Billington** who has been nominated for nine Tony Awards, winning in 1997 for Best Lighting Design for *Chicago*. With nearly 100 Broadway productions to his name, some of his most recent designs include *Dames at Sea*, *Amazing Grace*, *Chaplin*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *It Shoulda Been You*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. He has also served as Lighting Designer for numerous Goodspeed productions including *Amazing Grace*, *Lucky Guy*, *The Story of My Life*, *The 60's Project*, *They All Laughed*, and *The Road to Hollywood*. Projection Design will be provided by **Benjamin Percy**. Mr. Percy's Broadway credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Big Fish*. **Jay Hilton** who is in his 31st season at Goodspeed will provide Sound Design.

The Music Director for *A Sign of the Times* will be **Rick Fox** whose Broadway credits include *Doctor Zhivago*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Rent*, and *Blood Brothers*. **Joseph Church** will serve as Music Supervisor. Mr. Church is best-known for his music direction and supervision of the Broadway musicals *The Lion King* and *The Who's Tommy*. Other credits include *Amazing Grace*, *In the Heights*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Randy Newman's Faust*, and *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. He returns to Goodspeed where

he previously served as associate conductor for *The Little Rascals*, and as supervisor/orchestrator for *The 60's Project*. Dance Arrangements will be by **David Dabbon** whose Broadway credits include providing the Dance Arrangements for *Disaster!* and additional Orchestrations for *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Casting for *A Sign of the Times* is by Tara Rubin Casting.

A Sign of the Times will run July 29 through September 4, 2016. Curtain times are Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m..

Tickets are available through the Box Office (**860.873.8668**), open seven days a week, or on-line at **goodspeed.org**. For show highlights, exclusive photos, special events, and more visit us at **goodspeed.org** and follow us on Facebook, Twitter @goodspeedmusicl, Instagram, and YouTube.

For 30 years, The Terris Theatre has been Goodspeed's home for developing fresh, innovative, *and original new* musicals. These new works have been developed in Chester, Conn., before they've moved on to Broadway, Off-Broadway, National Tours, and other Regional Theatres. Because this is a developmental theatre, the show can change on a day-to-day basis. New scenes are added, songs are moved, costumes are changed, dialogue is tweaked—all based on audience response and feedback.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Michael Gennaro, Goodspeed Musicals is dedicated to the preservation, development and advancement of musical theatre. The first regional theatre to receive two Tony Awards (for outstanding achievement), Goodspeed produces three musicals each season at The Goodspeed in East Haddam, Conn. and additional productions at The Terris Theatre in Chester, Conn., which was opened in 1984 for the development of new musicals. Goodspeed also maintains The Scherer Library of Musical Theatre and The Max Showalter Center for Education in Musical Theatre. Goodspeed gratefully acknowledges the support of United Airlines, the official airline of Goodspeed Musicals, and official auto sponsor Hoffman Audi. Goodspeed is supported in part by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development with support from the Connecticut Office of the Arts.

###

For more information, to schedule an interview, or to receive stock art, please contact
Elisa Hale (ext. 323) or Dan McMahon (ext. 324) at 860.873.8664, Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org/Dan.McMahon@goodspeed.org.

GOODSPEED MUSICALS

A SIGN OF THE TIMES FACT SHEET

Production: *A SIGN OF THE TIMES*

Book by: Bruce Vilanch

Story Created By: Richard Robin

Theatre: The Terris Theatre
33 North Main Street, Chester, Connecticut

Director: Gabriel Barre
Choreographer: JoAnn M. Hunter
Set Designer: Paul Tate dePoo III
Costume Designer: Jennifer Caprio
Lighting Designer: Ken Billington
Projection Design: Benjamin Percy
Sound Designer: Jay Hilton
Music Director: Rick Fox
Music Supervisor: Joseph Church

Principals:

Ephie Aardema (Cindy)
Nick Bailey (Matt)
Bryan Fenkart (Dennis)
Robert Lenzi (Brian)
Crystal Lucas-Perry (Tanya)

Ensemble:

Lauren Boyd
Lauren Nicole Chapman
Melessie Clark
Drew Franklin
Jeremy Gaston
Alexandra Matteo
Keven Quillon
Kevin Santos (Dance Captain)
Dave Schoonover
Alet Taylor

Background: *A Sign of the Times* features several hit songs made famous by Petula Clark, as well as classics by Elvis Presley, Fontella Bass, Lesley Gore, Nancy Sinatra, and Dobie Gray. The original book was written by Emmy Award-winner Bruce Vilanch, based on a story created by Richard Robin. The musical incorporates several tunes by Clark, an English singer and actress who became an internationally recognized name in the 1960s following hits like "Downtown," "My Love," "A Sign of the Times," and "Colour My World." With a career spanning more than seven decades, Clark has sold over 70 million records.

Description: 1965. The pulse of a changing era lures Cindy from Middle America to the swirl of Manhattan. Unexpected friends, lovers, careers and conflicts are all a subway ride away in a pop-fueled new musical featuring songs made famous by Petula Clark and other hit-makers of the day. "I Know a Place," "The Shoop Shoop Song" and "If I Can Dream" are among the fabulous favorites on an eye-opening ride from innocence to experience. Forget all your troubles, forget all your cares—go "Downtown" and find out who you are!

Song List: Goodspeed Musical's production of *A Sign of the Times* includes the chart-topping hits (subject to change)

[Color My World](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Yvonne J. Harvey and Tony Hatch
[I Couldn't Live Without Your Love](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Yvonne J. Harvey and Tony Hatch
[I Only Want To Be With You](#) | Sung by Dusty Springfield | Written by Michael Edwin Hawker and Ivor Raymonde
[The Other Man's Grass Is Always Greener](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Yvonne J. Harvey and Tony Hatch
[I Know A Place](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Tony Hatch
[Turn Back The Hands Of Time](#) | Sung by Tyrone Davis | Written by Jack Daniels and Bonnie Thompson
[Round Every Corner](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Tony Hatch
[Baby The Rain Must Fall](#) | Sung by Glenn Yarbrough | Written by Elmer Bernstein and Ernie Sheldon
[Five O'Clock World](#) | Sung by The Vogues | Written by Allen Reynolds
[Call Me](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Tony Hatch
[These Boots Are Made For Walkin'](#) | Sung by Nancy Sinatra | Written by Lee Hazlewood
[Rescue Me](#) | Sung by Fontella Bass | Written by Raynard Miner and Carl William Smith
[The Boy From New York City](#) | Sung by The Ad Libs | Written by John Taylor and George Davis
[If I Can Dream](#) | Sung by Elvis Presley | Written by Earl Brown
[Who Am I](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Yvonne J. Harvey and Tony Hatch
[The In Crowd](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Billy Page
[A Sign Of The Times](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Tony Hatch
[It's In His Kiss](#) | Sung by Betty Everett | Written by Rudy Clark
[Society's Child](#) | Sung by Janis Ian | Written by Janis Ian
[Don't Sleep In The Subway](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Yvonne J. Harvey and Tony Hatch
[You'd Better Come Home](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Tony Hatch
[You Don't Own Me](#) | Sung by Lesley Gore | Written by John Madara and David White
[Kiss Me Goodbye](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by John Barry Mason and Leslie David Reed
[Downtown](#) | Sung by Petula Clark | Written by Tony Hatch

Dates: July 29 – September 4, 2016

Performances: Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8:00 p.m., Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Tickets: Start at \$49. All prices subject to change based on availability.
Goodspeed Box Office (860.873.8668) or online at goodspeed.org

Special Events:

Opening Night Toast: Friday, July 29. Celebrate opening night in style! Enjoy a specialty cocktail and a ticket to the show—a hot deal at \$44 per person!

Wine Tasting: Sunday, July 31, 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a sampling of fine wines hosted by Shore Discount Liquors of Deep River, hors d'oeuvres, and a pre-show chat with a member of the creative team—\$12 with your ticket to the 6:30 p.m. show.

Girls' Night Out: Gather the girls to celebrate the songs of the sixties! Join us on Friday nights and get a ticket and specialty cocktail for just \$44 per person. Available for the 8:00 p.m. performances on Aug 5, 12, 19, & 26.

Talkbacks: Participate in the process of creating a new musical. Join us for a free post-show discussion with the creative team after the 3:00 p.m. performance on Saturday, July 30 and the 7:30 p.m. performances on Thursday, Aug 4 & 11.

Meet the Cast: A lively discussion with the cast after the Thursday evening performances on Aug 18 & 25.

Lady Katharine Dining Cruise: Wednesday, August 31. Enjoy summer on the Connecticut River! Add a leisurely cruise and sumptuous buffet aboard the Lady Katharine to your theatre ticket. Choose an 11am lunch cruise (\$43) or a 4:30 p.m. dinner cruise (\$48) to pair with either the 2:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. performance. The ship departs from the returns to the dock at The Goodspeed in East Haddam.

\$25 for 40 & Under: Patrons 40 and under can enjoy affordable \$25 tickets for any evening performance. Available in advance by calling the Box Office.

Student Rush: \$15 tickets with valid student ID available beginning at 10:00 a.m. on any Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, Saturday, or Sunday for that evening's performance.

Goodspeed Dinners: Reserve tickets for a Wednesday, Thursday, or Sunday evening performance and enjoy special dinner offers at local restaurants.

ALL OFFERS ARE FOR SELECT SEATS AND ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

For more information, to schedule an interview, or to receive stock art, please contact
Elisa Hale (ext. 323) or Dan McMahon (ext. 324) at 860.873.8664,
Elisa.Hale@goodspeed.org/Dan.McMahon@goodspeed.org