

NEWS RELEASE

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PUT ON A HAPPY FACE!

GOODSPEED ANNOUNCES CAST OF THE ELVIS INSPIRED HIT ***BYE BYE BIRDIE*** at The Goodspeed this Summer

THIS FRESH TAKE ON THE TEENY-BOPPER TUNER WILL FEATURE TWO NEW SONGS

EAST HADDAM, CONN., MAY 17, 2016: The exuberant cast of ***Bye Bye Birdie*** will “spread sunshine all over the place” in this summertime sensation directed by **Jenn Thompson**. Ms. Thompson’s new take on this youthful classic includes two new songs, “Bye Bye Birdie” from the 1963 film and “A Mother Doesn’t Matter Anymore” from the 1995 television presentation along with crisp new dance arrangements by accomplished composer of Broadway, film and television **David Krane**. Everyone will love this fun-filled musical running June 24 – September 4 at The Goodspeed in East Haddam, Conn. [Official Press Opening will be July 13, 2016]

Put on a happy face! Army-bound rock star Conrad Birdie's farewell appearance in Sweet Apple, Ohio is the talk of the town. But it's a teenage crisis for new "steadies" Hugo and Kim: she just won the chance to give Birdie one last kiss before boot camp. Kids, parents and show folk collide in the Goodspeed debut of the hip-swiveling musical comedy set at the dawn of the sensational '60s. Bring the entire family to discover we've got a lot of livin' to do!

Bye Bye Birdie features book by **Michael Stewart**; music by **Charles Strouse** and lyrics by **Lee Adams**. This rockin'-and- rollin' musical joyride will be sponsored by Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.; The Lucille Lortel Foundation and Amica.

Rosie will be played by **Janet Dacal** whose Broadway credits include playing Alice in ***Wonderland***, as well as roles in ***In the Heights***, and ***Good Vibrations***. Albert will be played by **George Merrick** who appeared in the Broadway productions of ***Honeymoon in Vegas***, ***South Pacific***, and ***High Fidelity***. **Tristen Buettel** will play Kim, and **Alex Walton** will play Hugo.

Goodspeed favorite **Donna English** will play Mrs. MacAfee. Her Goodspeed credits include last years' hit ***My Paris***, ***Princesses***, and ***The Gig*** at The Terris Theatre and ***Half A Sixpence***, ***On The Twentieth Century***, ***They All Laughed***, ***On The Town***, and ***Follow Thru*** at The Goodspeed. On Broadway, Ms. English has performed in numerous productions including ***Living on Love***, ***Nice Work If You Can Get It***, and ***Lend Me A Tenor***.

Warren Kelley who appeared in the Goodspeed productions of *Dear World* at The Terris Theatre and *Houdini* at The Goodspeed, will play Mr. MacAfee. **Ben Stone-Zelman** who made his Goodspeed debut in last season's *A Wonderful Life* will play Randolph.

Conrad Birdie will be played by **Rhett Guter** who performed as Riff in the International Tour of *West Side Story*. Mae Peterson will be played by **Kristine Zbornik** who returns to The Goodspeed where she previously gave a hilarious performance as Sister in *Damn Yankees* and performed as the Housekeeper in the revival of *Man of La Mancha* in 2000. On Broadway, Ms. Zbornik appeared as Myra in *A Catered Affair*. **Dorcas Leung** will play Ursula.

The ensemble includes **Paul Aguirre** (Mayor) who played Angie the Ox in Goodspeed's *Guys and Dolls* and appeared on Broadway in *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, **Emily Applebaum**, **Hannah Bradley**, **Lauren Fijol** (Gloria), **Jeremiah Ginn** who appeared in Goodspeed's hit production of *Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn*, and **Kristen Hoagland** who performed as Young Jennie in The Terris Theatre production of *The Circus In Winter*. Joining them will be **Michael James**, **Logan Scott Mitchell**, **Brittany Nicholas** who served as swing for *Billy Elliot* on Broadway, **Eddie Olmo II**, **Marci Reid** who appeared in the Goodspeed productions of *Call Me Madam*, and *Me & My Girl*, **Jake Swain** and **Branch Woodman** (Maude) who Goodspeed audiences may remember from his performances in *Call Me Madam* and *George M!* On Broadway Mr. Woodman appeared in *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Crazy For You*. The swings will be **Austen Danielle Bohmer** and **Michal Kolaczowski**. **Tyler Manemeit** will understudy the role of Randolph.

Bye Bye Birdie will be directed by Jenn Thompson who recently served as Co-Artistic Director at TACT NYC. Ms. Thompson has directed numerous Off-Broadway productions including *Women Without Men* (2016 Drama Desk Nominee for Outstanding Director of a Play), 2015 Off-Broadway Alliance Award-Winner *Abundance* (also at Hartford Stage), and the first NYC revival of *Neil Simon's Lost In Yonkers* with script revisions approved by Mr. Simon (2012 Drama Desk Nomination For Best Revival.) Most recently she directed the current TheaterWorks Hartford production *The Call*.

Choreography will be by **Patricia Wilcox** whose Broadway credits include *Motown The Musical* and *A Night with Janis Joplin*. Her Off-Broadway credits include *Children's Letters to God*, *Blues in the Night*, the National Tour and PBS special *Bowfire*, and the National Tour of *Seussical*.

Scenic Design will be by **Tobin Ost** whose most recent Broadway credits include the acclaimed comedy *Disaster!*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Newsies* for which he earned a Tony Nomination, and *Bonnie and Clyde*. Costumes will be designed by **David Toser**. Over the years Mr. Toser has designed over fifty productions for Goodspeed Musicals. His numerous Broadway credits include *Oh Coward!*, *Take Me Along*, *Little Johnny Jones*, *Whoopee!*, *Very Good Eddie* and *Going Up*. Lighting Design will be by **Philip Rosenberg**, who designed the Broadway productions of *The Elephant Man*, *It's Only a Play*, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*. Sound Design will be by **Jay Hilton** who is in his 31st season at Goodspeed. Hair and Wig Design will be by **Mark Adam Rampmeyer** whose work can be seen at The Goodspeed in the current production of *Anything Goes* as well as last summer's smash hit *La Cage aux Folles*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Good News!*, *Something's Afoot*, *42nd Street*, *Big River* and *Half a Sixpence*, to name a few. On Broadway, he designed *West Side Story*, *Lysistrata Jones* and *The Farnsworth Invention*.

Dance Arrangements will be by Broadway, television and film composer/arranger David Krane. A protege of Leonard Bernstein, Mr. Krane has composed dance music and arrangements for twenty-nine Broadway musicals and numerous films, including "Chicago," "Annie" and the recent film version of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods." A few of his favorite Broadway credits include **110 in the Shade**, *La Cage aux Folles*, **Cabaret**, *Man of La Mancha*, **Oklahoma!** (Hugh Jackman), **Kiss of the Spider Woman** (Chita Rivera), **The Music Man**, **Big** (Susan Stroman), **Ragtime**, **Victor/Victoria** (Julie Andrews), and *Damn Yankees*. Mr. Krane also provided orchestrations for Goodspeed's **Good News!**, **The Great American Backstage Musical** and **High Button Shoes**.

The Music Director for *Bye Bye Birdie* will be **Michael O'Flaherty** who is in his 25th season as Goodspeed's Resident Music Director. **F. Wade Russo** will be assistant music director. Orchestrations will be provided by **Dan DeLange** who has orchestrated for The Jim Henson Company, Julie Andrews, Rosie O'Donnell, Live Theatricals at Universal Studios, and composers Paul Williams, Jerry Herman, Harvey Schmitt, Charles Strouse, Peter Link, and Mark Hollman. His scores have been heard on Broadway, National and European tours, film, television, and at regional theaters around the world, including over 40 productions at Goodspeed Musicals. His orchestrations can also be currently heard in the West End production of **Show Boat** at the New London Theatre in London. Casting for *Bye Bye Birdie* is by **Paul Hardt** of SH Entertainment.

Bye Bye Birdie will run June 24 – September 4, 2016 [Official Press Opening July 13, 2016]. Curtain times are Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday at 7:30 p.m. (with select performances at 2:00 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. (with select performances at 6:30 p.m.).

Tickets are available through the Box Office (**860.873.8668**), open seven days a week, or online 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](#).

Under the leadership of Executive Director Michael Gennaro, Goodspeed Musicals is dedicated to the preservation, development and advancement of musical theatre. 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. The first regional theatre to receive two Tony Awards (for outstanding achievement), 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.

GOODSPEED MUSICALS

BYE BYE BIRDIE FACT SHEET

Production: *Bye Bye Birdie*

Book by: Michael Stewart

Music by: Charles Strouse

Lyrics by: Lee Adams

Theatre: The Goodspeed
6 Main Street, East Haddam, Connecticut

Director: Jenn Thompson
Choreographer: Patricia Wilcox
Set Designer: Tobin Ost
Costume Designer: David Toser
Lighting Designer: Philip Rosenberg
Sound Designer: Jay Hilton
Music Director: Michael O’Flaherty
Assistant Music Director: F. Wade Russo
Dance Arrangements: David Krane
Orchestrations: Dan DeLange

Principals: Tristen Buettel (Kim)
Janet Dacal (Rosie)
Donna English (Mrs. MacAfee)
Rhett Guter (Conrad Birdie)
Warren Kelley (Mr. MacAfee)
Dorcas Leung (Ursula)
George Merrick (Albert)
Ben Stone-Zelman (Randolph)
Alex Walton (Hugo)
Kristine Zbornik (Mae Peterson)

Ensemble: Paul Aguirre (Mayor)
Emily Applebaum
Hannah Bradley
Lauren Fijol (Gloria)
Jeremiah Ginn
Kristen Hoagland
Michael James
Logan Scott Mitchell
Brittany Nicholas
Eddie Olmo II
Marci Reid
Jake Swain
Branch Woodman (Maude)

Swings: Austen Danielle Bohmer
Michal Kolaczkowski

Understudy: Tyler Manemeit

Background: This musical satire on American society is set in 1958. The story was inspired by the phenomenon of popular singer **Elvis Presley** receiving his draft notice into the Army in 1957. Rock-and-roll idol Elvis Presley was drafted and soon left the US for eighteen months in Germany, provoking a media circus that included Elvis giving a specially selected member of the Women's Army Corps 'one last kiss'. After brainstorming, writers Stewart and Adams came up with the idea of a rock-and-roll singer going off to the army and its effect on a group of teenagers in a small town in Ohio.

The Broadway production opened on April 14, 1960 at the Martin Beck Theatre, transferring to the 54th Street Theatre and then the Shubert Theatre, closing on October 7, 1961, after 607 performances. This original Broadway production was a Tony Award-winning success. It spawned a London production in 1961 and several major revivals, a sequel, a 1963 film and a 1995 television production.

Description: Put on a happy face! Army-bound rock star Conrad Birdie's farewell appearance in Sweet Apple, Ohio is the talk of the town. But it's a teenage crisis for new "steadies" Hugo and Kim: she just won the chance to give Birdie one last kiss before boot camp. Kids, parents and show folk collide in the Goodspeed debut of the hip-swiveling musical comedy set at the dawn of the sensational '60s. Bring the entire family to discover we've got a lot of livin' to do!

Dates: June 24 – September 4, 2016

Performances: Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday at 7:30 p.m., (with select performances at 2:00 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. (with select performances at 6:30 p.m.).

Tickets: Start at \$29.00. 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, June 24. Celebrate opening night in style! Enjoy a specialty cocktail and ticket to the show - a hot deal at \$49 per person!

Saturday Wine Tasting: Saturday, June 25, 6:30 pm. Treat yourself to a sampling of fine wines, hosted by Shore Discount Liquors, hors d'oeuvres courtesy of La Vita at Goodspeed Landing, and a pre-show chat with a member of the creative team. \$12 with your ticket to the 8pm performance. Reserve in advance through the Box Office.

Kids' Nights: June 29 & 30, 7:30 pm; July 1, 8 pm. Introduce your favorite young person to the magic of musical theatre. Each adult who buys a regular-priced ticket on the specified dates may purchase a \$15 ticket for a youth age 5 to 18. Meet the cast after the July 1 performance for autographs.

Meet the Cast: Take part in a lively discussion with the cast after the Thursday evening performances on July 21, Aug 4 & 18. *Meet the Cast events are free with a ticket to that evening's performance.*

Lady Katharine Lunch or Dinner Cruise: Wednesday, Aug 31 Enjoy summertime along 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 4:30pm dinner cruise (\$48) to pair with either the 2pm matinee or the 7:30pm evening performance.

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

Friday Dinner Theatre Package: Includes dinner at the Gelston House (located next door to The Goodspeed) and a ticket to the 8:00 pm performance. Includes your choice of beef, chicken, fish, or pasta entrée - only \$84!

Autism-Friendly Performance: Saturday, September 3, 3:00 PM This family-friendly performance is designed and intended for those who are on the autism spectrum or who have other sensory issues such as PTSD. At this performance, the theatre environment will be altered, providing a safe, friendly, comfortable and judgment-free zone that is welcoming for all. This performance is recommended for those families and caregivers who are familiar with and accepting of behaviors exhibited by some individuals with autism—and would like to bring a loved one to the theatre. **LEARN MORE:** Kate Micari 860.873.8664 ext. 316 or kmicari@goodspeed.org

ALL OFFERS ARE FOR SELECT SEATS AND ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

[Headshots and show art available upon request: elisa.hale@goodspeed.org]

For more information, to schedule an interview, or to receive stock art, please contact
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