

NEWS RELEASE

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***Billy Elliot* to Electrify The Goodspeed Stage this Fall**

Complete Cast of Goodspeed Musicals Billy Elliot The Musical Announced

EAST HADDAM, CONN; AUGUST 5, 2019: Sometimes being brave means being yourself! This fall Goodspeed Musicals' production of ***Billy Elliot The Musical*** will spark with infectious energy. This tour-de-force of dance based on the British movie of the same name, will run September 13 – November 24 at The Goodspeed in East Haddam, Conn. [Official Press Opening will be October 2, 2019].

Young Billy Elliot is pulled between his family's coal-mining roots and his newly discovered passion to dance. Is his future boxing gloves or ballet shoes? In the hardscrabble world of a changing England, reaching high becomes a leap of faith. Following your dream—and overcoming obstacles—has never been more electric than in the 10-time Tony winning Broadway phenomenon with songs by the legendary **Elton John**. Celebrate the idea of being yourself in the Goodspeed premiere of this powerful dance-filled story

Billy Elliot The Musical features book and lyrics by Tony Award-winner **Lee Hall** with music by Tony, Academy and Grammy Award–winner Elton John and was originally directed by Tony Award-winner **Stephen Daldry**.

This exhilarating hit musical will be sponsored by Eversource Energy.

Billy will be played by **Taven Blanke** and **Liam Vincent Hutt**.

Taven Blanke has played Colin Craven in The Rose Center Theater's production of ***The Secret Garden*** and Jojo in ***Seussical*** at Top Hat 8 Repertory as well as numerous productions with Clubhouse Academy in CA.

Liam Vincent Hutt credits include ***Elf the musical*** National Tour, ***Cabaret*** at the Florida Repertory Theater, ***The Secret Garden*** at Theater Zone where he played the role of Colin, as well as ***Pippin***, ***Mary Poppins***, ***Phantom*** and ***Evita*** at Broadway Palm. He is also the recipient of a Young Artist Award.

Dad will be played **Sean Hayden**, who performed in the National Tours of ***The Light in the Piazza*** and ***Mamma Mia!*** He has also performed in ***Freaky Friday*** at the North Shore Music Theatre, ***The Bridges of Madison County*** at Music Theatre of Connecticut, ***Next To Normal*** with Charleston Stage, as Lancelot in ***Camelot*** with Sacramento Music Circus and as Billy Bigelow in ***Carousel*** with West Virginia Public Theatre.

Michael will be played by **Jon Martens**. Jon's credits include the role of John in ***Fun Home*** at Baltimore Center Stage, Young Charlie in the ***Kinky Boots*** US Tour Asia, as well as ***A Christmas Carol*** and

Peter Pan. His New York credits include **Show & Tell** and NYC Tap Crew. On TV he appeared in *Happy!* for SyFy and *Evil Lives Here* for Investigative Discovery.

Gabriel Sidney Brown will play Tony. Last seen in the National Tour of **Les Misérables**, Brown's other recent credits include **The Secret Garden**, **King Lear** at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and **Dogfight** at The Beck Center.

Barbara Marineau will play Grandma. Barbara has appeared in Goodspeed Musicals productions of *Pippin* and **Sweeney Todd**, for which she received a Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Actress. Ms. Marineau's numerous theater credits include eight Broadway shows, ten National/International Tours and many Off-Broadway and regional performances. She recently co-starred in *Fosse/Verdon* on FX and *Murphy Brown* on CBS. She is a Western Michigan University Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

Mrs. Wilkinson will be played by **Michelle Aravena**, whose credits include Broadway performances in **A Chorus Line**, **Jersey Boys**, **Rocky** and a **Bronx Tale**. In addition to performing as The Kid in Goodspeed's **The Roar of the Greasepaint - The Smell of the Crowd**, Ms. Aravena performed in the National Tours of *A Bronx Tale* as Rosina, **West Side Story** as Anita, **Les Misérables**, **Mamma Mia!** and *Jersey Boys*. Michelle is also a two-time Jeff Award nominee and winner for her portrayal of Anita at Drury Lane.

Erica Parks will play Debbie. Regionally, she has appeared in *Billy Elliot* at Seacoast Repertory Theatre, **The Music Man** at North Shore Music Theatre, and *A Christmas Carol* The Hanover Theatre. Erica is also a World Tap Dance Champion.

Featured in the ensemble will be **Rachel Rhodes-Devey** as Dead Mum (Goodspeed's **The Most Happy Fella**, National Tours of *South Pacific* and *White Christmas*, City Center Encores! *The Most Happy Fella*, *Carousel* at New York Philharmonic and PBS Live from Lincoln Center); **Nick Silverio** as Older Billy/Dance Captain (Goodspeed's **La Cage aux Folles**, National Tour of *Elf the Musical*, Dance Lab NY, DanceBreak and Red Bucket Follies); **Byron St. Cyr** as Big Davey (National Tour of **My Fair Lady**, **On Your Feet** at WBT, *Elf the Musical* at Syracuse Stage); and **Jesse Swimm** as George (Goodspeed's **High Button Shoes** and *Fiddler on the Roof*, Broadway's **School of Rock**; National Tours of *Mary Poppins*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, **Grease**; and **Shrek** at NSMT).

Joining them will be **Margot Anderson-Song** (**Sunday in the Park with George** at Huntington Theatre Company, *Gypsy* at Lyric Stage, *A Christmas Carol* at Central Square); **Amy Button** (National Tour of **The Wizard of Oz**, *The Music Man* at Arizona Theatre Company, **Into the Woods** at Lyric Stage and **South Pacific** at CityRep); and **Billy Cohen** (**Soul Doctor** tour, **Oklahoma** at Weston Playhouse, **Striking 12** at Prospect Theater, **Peter and the Starcatcher** at Theatre Aspen, **Once** at The Engeman, **Million Dollar Quartet** at Lyric Theatre).

Rounding out the ensemble will be **Richard Costa** (Goodspeed's **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes** and **The Chocolate Soldier**, Broadway's *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, Off-Broadway's **Once Upon a Mattress**, National Tours of **Spamalot** and **Annie**); **Julia Louise Hosack** (National Tours of *Elf the musical* and **Beauty and the Beast**); **Erik Gratton** (National Tour of *Elf the musical*, **The Foreigner** and **The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes** at Village Theatre, New York Classical Theatre); **Emily Larger** (National Tours of *Elf the Musical*, **The 39 Steps** and **Cabaret**); **Connor McRory** (National Tours of **Finding Neverland** and **White Christmas**, Off-Broadway **Trip of Love**); **Simon Pearl** (Broadway/National Tour *Les Misérables*, regional

Blood Brothers, Dice House, The Libertine, Little Shop of Horrors, Anything Goes); William Daniel Russell (Goodspeed's *The Music Man, A Christmas Carol* at The Hanover Theatre, *Peter Pan* at The Norwood Theatre and *Willy Wonka Jr.*); Tess Santarsiero (Goodspeed's *Because of Winn Dixie*); and Camiel Warren-Taylor (*Matilda* at Olney Theatre Center, *Honk!* at Delaware Theatre Company, *Annie* at Walnut Street Theatre). The swings will be Gerard Lanzerotti and Samantha Littleford.

Billy Elliot The Musical will be directed by Gabriel Barre. Gabriel is an internationally-acclaimed director whose recent Goodspeed production of *Amazing Grace* went on to both Broadway and Washington, DC. His Off-Broadway credits include the original production of Manhattan Theatre Club's *The Wild Party; Summer of '42; John & Jen* and *Almost, Maine*. His National Tours include *Amazing Grace, Pippin* and *Cinderella*. Regional theatre credits include the original productions of *Memphis* at North Shore Music Theatre and Theatreworks in Palo Alto, CA and *Sweeney Todd, Finian's Rainbow, Houdini* and many others at The Goodspeed and The Terris Theatre. International credits include the Mexican premiere of *Billy Elliot* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* in Japan, as well as numerous shows in Korea, China, and The Czech Republic, including the world premiere of the new Czech Musical *Holmes, The Legend* which opened last fall. Barre also directed the Frank Wildhorn musical *Carmen*, which recently celebrated its 10th sold-out year anniversary.

Choreography will be by Marc Kimelman, who was the associate choreographer for the Broadway and National Tour of *A Bronx Tale*. In addition, he choreographed Off-Broadway's *Play It Cool* and *The Apple Boys*, the National Tour of *Saturday Night Fever, Man of La Mancha* at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, *Tonya & Nancy: The Rock Opera* at NYMF, *Songbird* and *The Ballad of Little Jo* at Two River Theater and *Once on this Island* for which he won the Dora Award for Outstanding Choreography. His TV/Film credits include *Degrassi: The Next Generation* and *Don't Talk to Irene* starring Geena Davis. Marc is movement consultant for Vogue magazine. He was the Associate Choreographer for Broadway's *A Bronx Tale The Musical* and Assistant Choreographer for the revival *Jesus Christ Superstar*, National Tour of *Queen's We Will Rock You* and the workshops *Freaky Friday* and *Hands on a Hardbody*. This fall he will serve as Associate Choreographer for Broadway's *Jagged Little Pill*.

The Music Director for *Billy Elliot* will be Michael O'Flaherty, who is in his 28th season as Goodspeed's Resident Music Director.

Scenic Design will be by Walt Spangler, whose designs for Goodspeed Musicals include The Terris Theatre productions of *Camille Claudel, The Flight of the Lawnchair Man, Happy Days, Lucky Guy, The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown* and *The Roar of the Greasepaint...* In addition to nearly 30 Off-Broadway productions, Mr. Spangler has designed the Broadway productions of *Escape to Margaritaville, Tuck Everlasting, Scandalous, A Christmas Story the musical,* and *Desire Under the Elms*.

Costume Design will be by Jennifer Caprio, who previously designed Goodspeed's *A Wonderful Life, LMNOP* and *A Sign of the Times*. Her work on Broadway includes *Falsettos* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Ms. Caprio designed the West End production of *The Lion*. Her work on National and International Tours include *Falsettos, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, The Lion, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Kaleidoscope*.

Lighting Design will be by Jason Kantrowitz, whose Broadway credits include *Dames at Sea, Dame Edna, Tru, Starmites* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Other NYC/Off-Broadway credits include City

Center Encores!, Audible/Minetta Lane, Second Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout, Primary Stages, Cherry Lane, LaMama, ETC, and Ensemble Studio Theatre. He designed the **Radio City Christmas Spectacular** and over 150 LORT productions.

Sound design will be by **Jay Hilton**, who has designed countless productions at both The Terris Theatre and The Goodspeed. His work has also been heard on Broadway, National Tours and Regional Theatres from coast to coast. He also serves as Goodspeed's audio supervisor.

Wig and Hair design will be by **Mark Adam Rampmeyer**, who has designed more than 20 productions for Goodspeed Musicals, including the current production of *Because of Winn Dixie*, *The Music Man*, **42nd Street**, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *Oklahoma!*. As a stylist, he was fortunate enough to be a part of the Broadway productions of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, **Sunset Boulevard**, **Kiss of the Spider Woman**, and **42nd Street**. Other Broadway design credits include *West Side Story*, *Lysistrata Jones*, *The Farnsworth Invention*. Off-Broadway: *The Toxic Avenger*, Horton Foote's *Orphans' Home Cycle* and *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore* with **Olympia Dukakis**. Regional: *The Legend of Georgia McBride* and *Christmas on the Rocks* for TheaterWorks and many productions for Hartford Stage Company. He is the recipient of a 2010 Drama Desk Award for Horton Foote's *Orphans' Home Cycle* at Signature Theatre Company.

Orchestrations will be by **Dan DeLange**. This marks his 21st year and 55th show for Goodspeed Musicals.

The Fight Director for *Billy Elliot* will be **UnkleDave's Fight-House**. Their Goodspeed credits include **Oliver!** and *Oklahoma*. Their Broadway credits include *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Tuck Everlasting*, **An American in Paris** and *Disgraced*. Off-Broadway credits include *The Secret Life of Bees*, *Mojada*, *The Girl From The North Country*, *Happy Talk*, and *The Rolling Stone*.

The Dialect Coach will be **Jennifer Scapetis**. Jennifer's credits include work for Berkshire Theatre Group, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Bated Breath Theatre at 59E59 NYC, Playhouse on Park in West Hartford, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, The Know Theatre Cincinnati, Saratoga Shakespeare Company, Bay Street Theatre, Dirty Pretty Theatre at 45 Downstairs in Melbourne, Australia, and The Rose Theatre Bankside in London. Jennifer is on the faculty of UConn's Drama department and coaches for their resident Connecticut Repertory Theatre. Jennifer trained as a voice coach at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London, and as an actor at ArtsEd, London.

Billy Elliot The Musical features Book and Lyrics by Lee Hall. He has been writer-in-residence at the Royal Shakespeare Company and Live Theatre in Newcastle Upon Tyne. Some of his credits include **Wittgenstein of Tyne**, **Bollocks**, **Genie**, **Cooking With Elvis**, **Spoonface Steinberg**, **Two's Company**, **Pitmen Painters** and **Leonce and Lena**.

Music for *Billy Elliot the Musical* is by singer/songwriter Elton John. Sir Elton John has had a monumental career being one of the top-selling solo artists of all time with 35 gold and 25 platinum albums and more than 250 million records sold worldwide. He also collaborated with lyricist **Tim Rice** on a number of award-winning musicals, including the multi-genre sensation **The Lion King**. Elton has also been awarded the Grammy Legend Award.

Casting for *Billy Elliot* is by **Paul Hardt** of Stewart/Whitley Casting.

Executive producers (original production), Angela Morrison and David Furnish. Producers (original production), Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Jon Finn, Sally Green.

Billy Elliot will run September 13 – November 24th, 2019 [Official Press Opening October 2]
Curtain times are Wednesday at 2:00p.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 and is the first theatre in the nation 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; the official audio sponsor Sennheiser; and official auto sponsor Hoffman Audi. Goodspeed is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts.

FACT SHEET

GOODSPEED MUSICALS *Billy Elliot The Musical*

Production: *Billy Elliot The Musical*

Book and Lyrics by: Lee Hall

Music by: Elton John

Originally Directed by: Stephen Daldry

Original Orchestrations by: Martin Koch

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

Director: Gabriel Barre

Choreographer: Mark Kimelman

Music Director: Michael O'Flaherty

Scenic Designer: Walt Spangler

Costumer Designer: Jennifer Caprio

Lighting Designer: Jason Kantrowitz

Sound Designer: Jay Hilton

Wig & Hair Designer: Mark Adam Rampmeyer

Fight Director: UnkleDave's Fight-House

Dialect Coach: Jennifer Scapetis-Tycer

Orchestrator: Dan DeLange

Production Stage Manager: Bradley G. Spachman

Casting: Paul Hardt, Stewart/Whitley

Principals: Liam Vincent Hutt (Billy)
Taven Blanke (Billy)
Sean Hayden (Dad)
Jon Martens (Michael)
Gabriel Sidney Brown (Tony)
Barbara Marineau (Grandma)
Michelle Aravena (Mrs. Wilkinson)
Erica Parks (Debbie)

Ballet Girls: Margot Anderson Song
Amy Button
Tess Santarsiero
Camiel Warren Taylor

Ensemble: Billy Cohen
Richard Costa
Erik Gratton
Julia Louise Hosack
Emily Larger
Connor McRory
Simon Pearl
Rachel Rhoades-Devey
William Russell
Nick Silverio
Byron St. Cyr
Jesse Swimm

Swings: Gerald Lanzerotti
Samantha Littleford

Executive producers (original production), Angela Morrison and David Furnish. Producers (original production), Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Jon Finn, Sally Greene.

Description: Young Billy Elliot is pulled between his family's coal-mining roots and his newly discovered passion to dance. Is his future boxing gloves or ballet shoes? In the hardscrabble world of a changing England, reaching high becomes a leap of faith. Following your dream—and overcoming obstacles—has never been more electric than in the 10-time Tony winning Broadway phenomenon with songs by the legendary Elton John. Celebrate the idea of being yourself in the Goodspeed premiere of this powerful dance-filled story!

Billy Elliot The Musical was nominated for a whopping 15 Tony Awards, tying the record, and won 10 of them including Best Musical in 2009.

Dates: September 13 – November 24, 2019

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:

Teacher Night Out: Friday, Sept 13, 8pm. Celebrate the first performance with this ticket and drink special. Includes a specialty drink in a souvenir cup and a ticket to the show. Just \$40 per person.

Heroes Weekend: Sept 13 – 15. To honor those who serve our country, we offer \$10 off tickets for veterans or active military and their families for the evening performances on Sept 13 – 15. Limit 6 tickets. **USE CODE: HERO10**

Drama Nerd Talks: Saturday, Sept 14, 2pm & 7pm; Sunday, Sept 15, 1pm & 5:30pm. FREE! Join a member of our artistic team in the Members' Lounge to learn about the history and background of the show you're about to see.

Teen Nights: Sept 18 & 19, 7:30pm; Sept 21, 8pm; Sept 22 at 6:30pm. Each adult who buys a regular-priced ticket for the specified dates may purchase a \$15 ticket for a teen ages 15 to 18. Meet the cast for autographs after the Saturday, Sept 21 performance.

Lady Katharine Lunch Cruise: Wednesday, Oct 9. Enjoy the fall foliage along the beautiful Connecticut River! Add a leisurely cruise and sumptuous buffet aboard the Lady Katharine to your theatre ticket for just \$45. Pair an 11am lunch cruise with the 2pm performance.

Meet the Cast: Oct 10 & 24, Nov 7. FREE! A lively discussion with the cast after the specified Thursday evening performances.

Open Caption Performance: Friday, Oct 11, 8:00pm Open-captioning is a service that displays the text of a show simultaneously with the performance without the use of any special equipment by the patron. The words are displayed on a 4-foot by 1-foot LCD screen located near the edge of the stage and are thus "open" to anyone within view. We recommend you book your tickets with a Box Office representative to ensure that you are seated in an area with the best view of the display. Please call 860.873.8668.

Trick-Or-Tini: Thursday, Oct 31, 7:30pm. Includes a ticket to the evening performance of *Billy Elliot The Musical* at The Goodspeed and a specialty cocktail in a souvenir cup. A frightfully good deal at \$51 per person!

Thanksgiving Food Drive 2-For-1 Tickets: Wednesday, Nov 20 & Thursday, Nov 21, 7:30pm. Buy one ticket to see *Billy Elliot The Musical*, get one free for select seats for the 7:30pm performances with a generous non-perishable food donation to benefit the East Haddam Food Bank. Additionally, Goodspeed will be collecting donations at all performances from, Nov 20-24.

Student Rush: \$15 tickets available for any evening performance, beginning at 10am on the day of the show. Must present student ID at pick-up.

Friday Dinner Theatre Package: Includes dinner at the Gelston House (located next door to The Goodspeed) and a ticket to the 8pm performance. Only \$79!

Rustica Dinner Theatre Package: Enjoy a night filled with homemade pasta and first-class theatre! Package includes a three-course dinner at Rustica Ristorante in Chester and a ticket to a Wednesday 7:30pm performance. Only \$85! Reservations must be made prior to noon on the Monday before you plan to attend.

Dinner Discounts: 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

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Facebook: [Goodspeed Musicals](https://www.facebook.com/GoodspeedMusicals)

and Instagram: [goodspeedmusicals](https://www.instagram.com/goodspeedmusicals)

[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
Elisa Hale (ext. 323) or Dan McMahon (ext. 324) at 860.873.8664,

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