

Dezart Performs presents GRAND CONCOURSE February 28 - March 9, 2025
at The Pearl McManus Theater

Off-Broadway Hit Drama by Award-Winning Heidi Schreck
Explores Faith, Forgiveness and Self Preservation

4 February, 2025 - Palm Springs: **Dezart Performs** (dezartperforms.org) presents the profound and gripping play **GRAND CONCOURSE** directed by Michael Shaw, **February 28 - March 9 2025** at the Pearl McManus Theater in the Palm Springs Woman's Club, 314 S. Cahuilla Road, Palm Springs. With keen humor and startling compassion, award-winning playwright Heidi Schreck (WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME) navigates the mystery of faith, the limits of forgiveness and the pursuit of something resembling joy. **GRAND CONCOURSE** runs 90 minutes without intermission.

"Grand Concourse may well break your heart. You may need tissues by the end."
-New York Post

"Insightful with a moving, even shocking epiphany."
-Huffington Post

"Heidi Schreck's beautiful tragicomedy of life...reminds you of why you go to the theater in the first place."
-Chicago Sun Times

At the heart of a Bronx soup kitchen is Shelley (**Eliza Newman**), a nun questioning her faith who has dedicated her life to serving the poor with unsentimental efficiency. Grappling with a loss of faith and dealing with the fear that her efforts are meaningless, Emma (**Tia Laulusa**), an idealistic but confused college dropout arrives to volunteer. A troubled young woman looking for redemption, her reckless mix of generosity and self-involvement pushes Shelley to the breaking point. Joined by Oscar (**Chris Carranza**), a security guard and Frog (**E.M. Davis**), a homeless bohemian, their lives intertwine in unexpected ways. Emma, Oscar, Frog and Shelley become a weird little family during the course of the play and, like any real family, have the power to both heal and harm one another. **GRAND CONCOURSE** explores generosity that ignores the risk of personal damage and questions whether that generosity is actually beneficial to either the giver or receiver.

"Directing GRAND CONCOURSE is a deeply personal journey for me. This play speaks to the quiet struggles we all face - the desire to do good, the weight of disappointment, and the complicated nature of forgiveness. Each of these characters feels so real because they remind us of ourselves: flawed, hopeful, and trying our best. At its heart, this story asks how much we're willing to give - to others and to ourselves." - Michael Shaw, Director

The NEW Dezart Playhouse

The new 6,000 sq. ft. Dezart Playhouse, a 125 seat fully-equipped theater and rehearsal hall will help meet the expanding needs of Dezart Performs continuous growth in addition to serving as a hub for diverse activities, community events and cultural engagement. Designed by Albert Frey in 1957, the new Dezart Playhouse will enhance the vibrancy of the local arts scene, ensuring various voices and talents are represented and celebrated. Currently scheduled to open for the 2025/26 season.

Dezart Performs, Palm Springs' only Equity theatre and one of Coachella Valley's preeminent theatre companies, recognizes that the performing arts enrich the life and culture of a community, promote greater understanding and provoke insightful discussion. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit theatre company, its mission is to

provide an artistic home for bold and cutting-edge plays, creating an atmosphere of artistic growth for actors, writers and directors who uniquely contribute to the diverse theatrical environment in the Coachella Valley.

For tickets and information about DeZart Performs' 2024/25 season, visit dezartperforms.org or call 760-322-0179 ext 1.

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DeZart Performs' Season 17
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FALSETTOS

A dramatic musical written by William Finn and James Lapine with music and lyrics by Finn
April 18 - 27, 2025

1992 Tony Award winner for Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score
2017 Nominated for five Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical

"Exhilarating and heartbreaking."

- The New York Times

"The lyrics make you constantly marvel at the ability to combine clever humor, complex phrasing and searing tenderness."

- The Hollywood Reporter

"There's no shortage of laughs, from tuneful one-liners, to entire numbers. And act two is a work of lyrical comic genius."

- Entertainment Weekly

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