**THE MALTZ JUPITER THEATRE PRESENTS A CAST OF QUADRUPLE THREATS IN *ONCE - A MUSICAL.***

There will be a symphony of love, community, and authenticity on our MainStage.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 8th, 2024 (Jupiter, FL)** Maltz Jupiter Theatre of Jupiter, FL is excited to present the **Tony AwardⓇ - winning story, *Once-A Musical***to eager audiences from **December 3-15, 2024**. 

Something that makes *Once - A Musical* particularly special is the cast of “quadruple threat” performers serving as the show’s band. Audiences can actively see them reveling in the fun of playing music, while dancing around with instruments in hand. The entire ensemble, apart from the leads, plays multiple instruments throughout the musical including (but not limited to) violin, piano, guitar, accordion, castanets, mandolin, and melodica.

*Once* tells the blossoming love story of a Dublin based street musician and a Czech immigrant, both struggling to make ends meet. While “Guy” is busking on the street, “Girl” is inspired by the melody and approaches him, asking humorously personal questions about the inspiration of his songwriting. This propels them into a friendship, through their shared love of music, ultimately leading them into making beautiful music together. Throughout their relationship, they’re faced with troubling life decisions. With words of love so difficult to speak aloud, they’re forced to express themselves through lyric and melody.

The beauty of this show is its foundation in realism. The characters are written in such a deeply human way and the dialogue upholds an overwhelming aura of authenticity, thanks to playwright, **Enda Walsh**. *Once* invites audiences in, past the proscenium arch, to celebrate the passion of human connection through music alongside them.

Producing Artistic Director and Chief Executive **Andrew Kato** says, “The award-winning score is truly what sets this show apart from others. Music and lyrics are written by **Glen Hansard** and **Markéta Irglová**, giving the soundtrack a folksy, yet timeless sound to it. The power of the soundtrack reigns true with the positive feedback of critics winning the **Grammy AwardⓇ for Best Musical Theatre Album** in 2013 and the song “Falling Slowly” winning the **Academy AwardⓇ for Best Original Song.**”

The musical *is* based on the 2007 film of the same name, but Director **Mark Martino** strongly urges audiences to not show up expecting the movie. He notes that the book, written by **Enda Walsh**, is so well-done that the show itself feels more like a straight play with music. Martino is making his return to the Maltz Jupiter Theatre, previously directing *Mamma Mia!, The Producers, Will Rogers Follies, Les Misérables,* and *Annie* to name a few.

He says, “This is a story told entirely by the storytellers making the music, which is very personal, and very intimate,” he continues, “You think the show is about these two people who have this intimate relationship over five days… but along the way, ten people surround and support the story in every possible way. This is such a piece where everybody is important to the product. Every single person.”

Martino is joined by the talented **Maggie Hollinbeck** as Music Director, who will also be performing in the show. She is no stranger to the script having previously performed as Baruska in the first National Tour of *Once* and at Pittsburgh CLO. Hollinbeck will lead the cast of quadruple threats in learning music, but still there is technically no composer in this show. She’ll be joined on stage by her absolute dream cast, including: **Erica Swindell** (Girl), **Jack Wesley Gerhard** (Guy), **Evan Harrington** (Billy), **Megan Loomis** (Reza), **Maggie Hollinbeck** (Baruska), **Stephen McIntrye** (Bank Manager), **David Lutken** (Da), **Douglas Goodheart** (Svec), **Morgan Morse** (Andrej), **Larry Tobias** (Eamon), **Sam Sherwood** (Emcee/ Guy Understudy), and **EJ Zimmerman** (Ex-girlfriend/Girl Understudy).

The designers and production team include **Jean Kim** (Scenic Designer), **April Soroko** (Costume Designer), **Kirk Bookman** (Lighting Designer), **Scott Stauffer** (Sound Designer), **Kacey** (Hair Consultant), **Jennifer Burke** (Dialect Coach), who will all work in tandem to maintain the realism of the show. As well as some seasoned Maltz Jupiter Theatre favorites **Kent Collins** (Stage Manager) and **Randall Swinton** (Assistant Stage Manager).

This production is a reminder to audiences that in a world that can often disconnect us, music and friendship can powerfully bring us together. The story is an immigrant story, one that highlights the trials and tribulations of belongingness. Along with, the isolating effects of being a struggling artist and the resilience it asks of. Though, the book and score remind us that music is the world’s universal language. Ultimately, nothing can create the feeling that live music, hootenanny-style, evokes and *Once* will do just that.

During the run of *Once*, we are continuing our tradition of **Holiday Communi-Trees.** During the run of *Once,* walk around our lobby and see the sparkling, beautifully-decorated Christmas trees. Not only is it a great way to step into the holiday spirit, but it’s an opportunity to support local not-for-profit organizations. Due to the success of last year, we’re taking it from twenty to thirty-one organizations. When you come to see *Once,* make sure to vote for your favorite Christmas tree, which supports these great organizations.

**LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS**

**The MainStage Theatre:** In the 659-seat MainStage Theatre, we will be hosting an exciting lineup of Limited Engagement performances starting in January, including ***The Beat Goes On***(January 28th: 7:30pm)*,* ***Meet Loaf***(January 30th: 7:30pm)*,* ***Here Comes the Sun: The Music of the Beatles*** (January 31st: 7:30pm)*,* ***George Michael Reborn: The #1 Tribute to George Michael and WHAM*** (February 1st: 8pm)*,* ***Yellow Brick Road*** (February 5th: 5pm,7:30pm)*,* ***The Drifters*** (February 6th: 7:30pm)*,* ***So Good! The Neil Diamond Experience:*** *Starring Robert Neary* (February 7th: 5pm,7:30pm)*,* ***David Clark Presents Live at the Garden: The Music of Billy Joel***(February 8th: 8pm)*,* ***A Tribute to Dolly*** (March 4th: 7:30pm)*,* ***Stayin' Alive - One Night of the Bee Gees***(March 5th: 7:30pm)*,* ***How Sweet It Is! Steve Leslie sings James Taylor***(March 6th: 7:30pm)*,* and ***Forever Motown***(March 7th: 5pm, 7:30pm).

**The Island Theatre:** The new 198-seat, flex-space, Island Theatre will host a wide variety of entertainment. This includes an aerial, cirque-style show called ***AIRE: AntiGravity*** *(*November 14th-17th : 5pm, 7:30pm, and 8pm) and a close-up magic show with Dennis Watkins called ***The Magic Parlour*** *(*January 2nd-January 5th: 2pm, 5pm, 7:30pm, and 8pm). \*VIP Experiences/Packages are available for both of these limited engagements.

There will also be two themed concert series. The first is a holiday series entitled,“Jingle Jams,” featuring three different events including, ***Dueling Yule-ing Pianos*** (December 18th & 19th: 5pm and 7:30pm), ***Classic Christmas by Candlelight***(December 20th: 5pm, 7:30pm), and ***Jazzy Christmas Concert*** (December 21st: 5pm, 7:30pm) Then, our “Cabaret Series,” including***Bette Midler: Bathhouse to Broadway*** *(*February 12th-13th: 5pm, 8pm), ***Amore! Starring Anthony Nunziata*** *(*February 14th: 5pm, 8pm), ***Somewhere Between Jazz, Blues, and You: An Evening with Mikayla Smith* (**February 15th: 8pm), ***Love Finds Judy Garland*** *(*March 14th: 5pm, 8pm), and ***Show Stoppers! Starring Avery Sommers* (**March 15th: 8pm)

**Ticket Information**

Individual tickets to *Once - A Musical* are on sale now, starting at $50 per ticket, on select performances. Single, club level and premium seat tickets can be purchased on the Theatre’s website at: jupitertheatre.org or by contacting the Box Office at: (561) 575-2223. For group tickets (20 or more), email: sales@jupitertheatre.org. The Box Office is open weekdays between 10 am - 6 pm and Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm.

**About the Maltz Jupiter Theatre** The not-for-profit Maltz Jupiter Theatre has become one of Florida’s preeminent professional regional theatres, committed to production and education through its collaborations with local and national artists. Currently a member of the prestigious League of Resident Theatres, the Maltz Jupiter Theatre draws 100,000 patrons annually, serves a subscription base of more than 7,200, and provides performing arts education to both youth and adult students through its Goldner Conservatory. The Island Theatre, a new 198-seat, Second Space has been added to the Theatre’s newly renovated 62,000 square foot facility for the 2024/25 season. Maltz Jupiter Theatre has earned numerous Carbonell Awards, South Florida’s highest honor for artistic excellence, including the prestigious Bill Von Maurer Award for Theatrical Excellence and The Ruth Foreman Award. For tickets and to learn more about all we offer, visit: [www.jupitertheatre.org](https://server.jupitertheatre.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.jupitertheatre.org) or contact the Box Office at: (561) 575-2223.

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