

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2023

Yes! And... Collaborative Arts' Winter Sort of Thing presents:

All Hands on Deck

Venice Island Performing Arts & Recreation Center, Manayunk

March 2 - 5, 2023

PHILADELPHIA, PA – When the child you have faithfully served as an Imaginary Friend "unbelieves" you without warning, you might be a bit upset. Lucky for these recently dumped IFs (Imaginary Friends), the mysterious and dashing Captain Popadopolus whisks them away to join her crew, sailing the seas and making mischief wherever they land. However, it turns out monkey business is not all it's cracked up to be and great changes await for the whole crew. With a story that is sure to appeal to young and old alike, *All Hands on Deck*, features slapstick comedy, rousing sea shanties, and soaring ballads.

For 16 seasons, **Yes! And... Collaborative Arts (YACA)** has produced an original musical as part of their **Winter Sort of Thing (WSOT)** musical theatre program with a group of young actors ages 10-18. Through the years YACA has presented magical stories and whimsical characters to audiences of all ages, bringing a professional musical production to local audiences throughout Philadelphia.

All Hands on Deck was created in 2011-2012 in collaboration with a group of young performers in Yes! And... Collaborative Art's arts programs. Premiering at YACA in 2012, *All Hands on Deck* was later performed in 2016 for YACA's outdoor summer musical production series. The writing team for *All Hands on Deck*, Brooke Sexton and Sarah C. Butts Manzo, have written over 10 musicals throughout the years at YACA, including *The Greatest Snow on Earth*, rated a "Best Bet for You and Your Kids" by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Directing this year's WSOT production is Philadelphia theatre-maker Mia Rocchio. She is joined on the creative staff by Music Director and arranger, Timothy Hill, producers Krista Thorp & Gavin Whitt, choreographer Cameron Bridgers and actors, Shannon Flannery, Sharese Salters, Anna Sweeny & Rafi Schneider.

All Hands on Deck runs 5 shows only, March 2, 3 & 4 at 7:00pm and March 4 & 5 at 1:00pm. All performances are held at the Venice Island Performing Arts Center in Manayunk, 7 Lock Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127. Tickets range from \$2 for ACCESS card holders to \$17 for adults and can be purchased at www.yesandcamp.org/events. The show runs approximately 90 minutes and is appropriate for all ages. [See fact sheet attached.]

About Yes! And... Collaborative Arts:

Yes! And.. Collaborative Arts (YACA) is a youth-centered organization dedicated to amplifying voices, nurturing agency, and creating community through performing arts experiences. We believe youth should have no barriers when discovering their unique perspectives because the future depends on compassionate, curious, and courageous leaders. We work with children and youth from across Philadelphia in the collaborative and imaginative arts through Summer Theatre Camps, Shadow

Company high school leadership and arts training, the Winter and Summer Sort of Thing musical experiences, and more! Learn more about YACA at www.yesandcamp.org.

About the Winter Sort of Thing program:

The Winter Sort of Thing program (WSOT) is a 5 month program for experienced YACA students to participate in the staging of a full-length musical. Students are educated further in all aspects of the theater arts while attending rehearsals with professional artists for the production. The cast works intensively to learn blocking, choreography, lines, and songs, to build sets, paint props, and sew costumes. Through that process, they grapple with themes in a magical story that are relevant to the challenges they face in their day to day lives. In this program, they are able to achieve a goal that at some point in the process seems impossible. This hard work culminates in the performing of an original student-conceived, staff written/composed musical in front of an audience.

Fact Sheet

Yes! And... Collaborative Arts' *Winter Sort of Thing* presents:

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Book & Lyrics by Brooke Sexton, Music by Sarah C. Butts Manzo

Directed by Mia Rocchio

at Venice Island Performing Arts & Recreation Center in Manayunk

March 2 - 5, 2023

Performance schedule:

Thursday, 3/2 - 7 pm

Friday, 3/3 - 7 pm

Saturday 3/4 - 1pm & 7 pm

Sunday, 3/5 - 1 pm

*Reviewers should feel comfortable attending any performance

Location:

Venice Island Performing Arts & Recreation Center
7 Lock Street
Philadelphia, PA 19127

Tickets:

\$15 – General Admission

\$12 - Kids 12 & Under

\$12 - Seniors

\$5 - Student ID

Recommended for all ages.

Public Contact Information:

Online Reservations:

www.yesandcamp.org/events

Box Office Phone: 215-278-4264

Production Team

Developed by: Yes! And... Collaborative Arts

Produced by: Krista Thorp & Gavin Whitt

Directed by: Mia Rocchio

Written by: Brooke Sexton

Composed by: Sarah C. Butts Manzo

Music Director & Arranger: Timothy Hill

Art Director:

Choreographer: Cameron Bridgers

Costume Design:

Marketing: Chris Herrman