Cabrillo Stage season kicks off, New York-style

‘A Chorus Line’ is the first of three summer musicals at Cabrillo College

By ERIK CHALHOUB
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — Cabrillo Stage launches its 31st season on July 13 with “A Chorus Line,” an award-winning Broadway musical that dates back to 1975.

The musical is about a chorus audition for an upcoming Broadway production. The “director” of the fictional production must choose seventeen dancers, including a strong dancing chorus of four boys and four girls.

“A Chorus Line,” which was created by Broadway legend Michael Bennett, made its debut on Broadway at the Shubert Theatre on July 25, 1975. It has since received nine Tony Awards and a Pulitzer Prize, among others.

Janie Scott, director and choreographer of the Cabrillo Stage performance of “A Chorus Line,” was an original member of the 1970s Broadway Chorus Line Touring Company. This will be the first time she has directed it, she said.

“We’re really going at it to recreate the original Broadway performance,” Scott said.

Scott said that she wanted to direct the musical for a while, but had to find the “right set of circumstances.”

With Cabrillo Stage, those circumstances became available.

“I feel comfortable,” she said. “We have the creative staff support and talent pool that [the musical] requires. It’s a project I’ve felt together here at Cabrillo.”

“A Chorus Line” will run through Aug. 12.

Scott has directed and choreographed more than 40 productions across the United States, in addition to directing previous Cabrillo Stage productions, such as Annie and My Fair Lady.

Scott is currently a professor of music and dance at San Jose State University.

“Chorus

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University.

Brian Conway, who plays the role of Paul in “A Chorus Line,” will finally see his month-long preparation pay off.

“It’s been a long journey, but a good journey,” he said.

With the character of Paul, Conway finds himself in a challenging spot, a character type that he doesn’t typically perform as.

“I feel it’s a lot easier to be a loud character, to grab the attention of the audience,” he said. “I would say Paul is very introverted, one of the more quiet and shy characters.”

Conway, originally from the Bay Area, has appeared in multiple musicals, commercials and films.

“A Chorus Line” has given 6,137 performances on Broadway. Productions have been performed all throughout the world, including Puerto Rico, France, Germany, Mexico, Austria, Hong Kong and many others.

Both Scott and Conway guarantee that the musical will be a hit with the Cabrillo Stage audience.

“They will really see some top-notch signing and acting,” Scott said. “We want to give the audience what all the hoopla was about in the beginning. There’s so much about it that rings true today.”

“I truly think we will keep your attention from lights on to lights out,” Conway said. “The audience is up for a good treat.”

“A Chorus Line” will run July 13-14, 19-20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cabrillo Crocker Theater, 6500 Soquel Dr., Aptos. Matinee performances will take place July 15 and 22 at 2 p.m.

To purchase tickets, visit www.cabrillostage.com or call 479-6154.

‘...we will keep your attention from lights on to lights out.’

—Brian Conway, actor in “A Chorus Line.”

starting on July 27, and “Escaping Queens” on Aug. 10.

Cabrillo College announced last week that “Escaping Queens” sold out two months before its opening date. A new show has been added for Aug. 18 in response.