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Pasadena Playhouse Announces
World Premiere Musical Adaptation from
EGOT-Winners Pasek and Paul (*Dear Evan Hansen*)

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical
An iTheatrics Musical

Music and Lyrics
**Benj Pasek, Justin Paul, Ari Afsar, Emily Xu Hall,
Joriah Kwamé, Mark Sonnenblick**

Libretto
Timothy Allen McDonald, Sara Wordsworth

Based on the Books by
Bernard Waber
Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile & The House on East 88th Street

Vocal Arrangements and Incidental Music
Daniel Mertzlufft

Directed by Nina Meehan

February 15 - March 16, 2025
at The Colony Theatre in Burbank

Tickets at pasadenaplayhouse.org or by calling 626-356-7529

October 23, 2024, Pasadena, CA | Pasadena Playhouse announces the world premiere musical adaptation from EGOT-winners Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (*La La Land*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *The Greatest Showman*), ***Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical*** from February 15 through March 16, produced by the Playhouse, and based on the book *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile* and *The House on East 88th Street* by Bernard Waber. *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical* will be the second world premiere coming from the Playhouse's Youth and Family productions following the highly successful sold out run of *Grumpy Monkey, The Musical*. Pasadena Playhouse will be the first to produce this fully realized production of *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical* in partnership with The Colony Theatre. In addition to public weekend performances, Pasadena Playhouse is partnering with Pasadena Unified and Burbank Unified School Districts to bring thousands of students to see *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical* free of charge.

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical has music and lyrics by EGOT winning songwriters Benj Pasek and Justin Paul along with Ari Afsar, Emily Xu Hall, Jorjah Kwamé and Mark Sonnenblick—the team that wrote the songs for the 2022 film version of *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. The libretto is written by Timothy Allen McDonald (*Between The Lines*, Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*) and Sara Wordsworth (*In Transit*, Disney Live Entertainment) and directed by Nina Meehan (*Grumpy Monkey, the Musical*). This world premiere will feature songs from the recent movie as well as new songs created especially for this production by the same award-winning songwriters. This Youth and Family production will be presented by Pasadena Playhouse in partnership with The Colony Theatre located at 555 N. 3rd. Street, Burbank, CA 91502.

Tickets are available at [pasadenaplayhouse.org](https://www.pasadenaplayhouse.org), by phone at 626-356-7529, and at the box office at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101.

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical splashes onto the stage with a song to sing! Join Lyle as he and his new human friends face their fears and find their voices. Inspired by Bernard Waber's much-loved picture books, this lively musical features new music by EGOT-winning composers Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (*The Greatest Showman*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *La La Land*). A celebration for the whole family, *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical* is packed with humor, heart, and showstopping tunes that will have audiences of all ages roaring with song.

Pasadena Playhouse's Youth & Family Programming and *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile: The Musical* would not be possible without the generous support of the Fitzberg Foundation, Apriem Advisors, U.S. Bank, the Helen and Will Webster Foundation, the Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, the L.L. Foundation for Youth, the Michael J. Connell Foundation, the Pasadena Community Foundation, the California Arts Council, and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.

BIOGRAPHIES

For a full list of creative team bios to date, visit

<https://www.pasadenaplayhouse.org/event/lyle-lyle-crocodile/>

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (Music & Lyrics): Oscar, Grammy, Tony, Emmy, and Olivier Award-winning songwriters/producers Benj Pasek & Justin Paul are best known for their work on *La La Land*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *The Greatest Showman*. Their songs "City of Stars" and "Audition (The Fools Who Dream)" (co-written with Justin Hurwitz) from *La La Land* were both nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song, with "City of Stars" winning the Academy Award as well as the Golden Globe in the same category. The following year, in 2018, Pasek & Paul won their second Golden Globe for Best Original Song for "This Is Me" from *The Greatest Showman*, which was also nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song and a Grammy Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media.

Ari Afsar (Music & Lyrics): Ari Afsar is a writer and performer whose work has been featured at Berkeley Rep, LJP, McCarter Theatre, and NMTC at O'Neill, where she won the Georgia Bogardus HoloF Lyricist Award. Credits: Netflix's *Wedding Season*, Eliza in Chicago's *Hamilton*, Top 10 *Miss America* and Top 36 *American Idol*.

Emily Xu Hall (Music & Lyrics): Emily Xu Hall is an actor, composer, lyricist, and playwright. Her musicals center feminist narratives and meaningful roles for people of color. Awards include the Lilly Award, Jonathan Larson Award, and Dramatists Guild's Stephen Schwartz Composer Award. Current projects include a modern adaptation of *The Cherry Orchard* and original musicals *Mei-Do* and *Nascent Phase*.

Jorjah Kwamé (Music & Lyrics): Jorjah Kwamé is most known for writing the viral song "Little Miss Perfect." Projects include *Trolls Jr.* (Dreamworks), *Sinister* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Little Miss Perfect* (Goodspeed Musicals). 2020 Johnny Mercer Songwriting Project. 2022-23 Dramatist Guild Foundation Musical Theatre Fellow. ASCAP Cole Porter Award, Harold Adamson Lyric Award.

Mark Sonnenblick (Music & Lyrics): Mark Sonnenblick is an Emmy and Drama Desk-nominated songwriter. Film: *Theater Camp*, *Spirited*, *Lyle Lyle Crocodile*. TV: *Harlem*, *Saturday Night Seder*, *Song of Parkland*. Theater: *Midnight at The Never Get*, *The Devil Wears Prada*. Jonathan Larson Grant and Harold Adamson Award winner.

Timothy Allen McDonald (Libretto): Timothy Allen McDonald is an acclaimed playwright, producer, entrepreneur, and educator. His notable credits include the librettos for *Willy Wonka* and *James and the Giant Peach*, both among the top ten most produced shows in schools, as well as *Between the Lines*, available for streaming on Broadway HD. As the Founder and CEO of iTheatrics, he adapts musicals for MTI's Broadway Junior Collection and Concord's Young Performers Editions, reaching an estimated annual audience of 36 million—three times that of Broadway. Tim is also the Founder and CEO of Junior Theater Festivals Worldwide, serving in-person audiences exceeding 20,000, and hailed by the *New York Times* as "a raucous, joyous, and celebratory event—a megachurch of theater!" He has received multiple awards for his contributions to theatre education and continues to inspire the next generation of artists through workshops and training programs.

Sara Wordsworth (Libretto): Sara Wordsworth is an award-winning musical writer with experience creating shows and content for Broadway, television, arenas, recordings, tours, concert, theaters, cruise ships and theme parks all around the world. Favorite credits include "In Transit," Broadway's 1st a cappella musical and numerous shows for Walt Disney Live Entertainment. www.SaraWordsworth.com

Bernard Waber (Author): Bernard Waber (September 27, 1921-May 16, 2013) was the author/illustrator of numerous children's books. He is best known for the Lyle the Crocodile series, which began in 1962 with *The House on East 88th Street*, which has been adapted for screen by both Columbia Pictures and HBO, and a nationally touring children's play. He is also known for *Ira Sleeps Over*, *Ira Says Goodbye* and *Courage*. Published after the attacks of September 11, 2001, *Courage* uses familiar scenarios to depict the meaning of bravery in terms children can see within themselves. Many of Waber's books such as *Do You See a Mouse?*, *Evie and Margie*, *An Ant eater named Arthur*, and *A Lion Named Shirley Williamson*, focus on animals.

Nina Meehan (Director): Nina Meehan is an award-winning TYA director, playwright, and producer and a dedicated arts educator, with expertise in creativity and communication. Nina's theatrical work for young people has toured nationally and internationally. She has directed, produced, and commissioned over 60 new musicals for young people including: *Press Here*

based on the NY Times Bestselling book by Herve Tullet, Chelsea Clinton's book *She Persisted*, Grace Lin's *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, and Sherry Duskey Rinker's *Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site*, just to name a few.

Her work as a playwright includes the world-premiere adaptation of *Grumpy Monkey, the Musical* based on the books by Suzanne and Max Lang, which she also directed. Upcoming: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, the Musical*, *Goodnight Gorilla* by Peggy Rathman, *Wheels on the Bus*, *Bloom Kaboom*, all four award-winning K'ilu Adventures co-created with Jonathan Shmidt Chapman and, in collaboration with Dan Mertzlufft, the *Kids Fight Evil Villain* Audio-Choose-Your-Own-Adventures musicals.

Nina holds a BS in Theatre from Northwestern University and a Master's in Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco and is currently working on her PhD in Creativity Studies. She is also a certified yoga instructor. Her work has been spotlighted in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *American Theatre Magazine*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Barron's*, *Red Tricycle*, *ABC News*, *NBC News*, and *CBS News*.

ABOUT PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

Pasadena Playhouse, the official State Theater of California and recipient of the 2023 Regional Theatre Tony Award, is one of the most prolific theaters in the country. The Playhouse has staged thousands of original productions since its founding in 1917 including premieres of works by Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Suzan-Lori Parks, Gloria Calderon Kellett, and hundreds more. For decades, its pioneering School for Theater Arts was a training ground for actors and theatermakers who went on to make significant contributions to the entertainment industry. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman since 2016, Pasadena Playhouse's productions and community programs are centered on its founding idea of being a living force in its community, making theater for everyone. pasadenaplayhouse.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

World Premiere of Theatrical Production

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical

Written by Timothy Allen McDonald

Music & Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Adapted from the Book by Bernard Weber

Directed by Nina Meehan

Venue: The Colony Theatre 555 N. 3rd. Street, Burbank, CA 91502.

Dates: February 15 - March 16, 2025

Tickets: Starting at \$34 (Everyone ages 2+ needs a ticket)

Member Price: 20% off

Online -- PasadenaPlayhouse.org

By phone at 626-356-7529

In person -- Pasadena Playhouse Box Office, located at 39 South El Molino Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Performance Schedule: Saturdays and Sundays - 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM

Ages: 5-12 year olds and their families