

For immediate release

**TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
 “DEAR EVAN HANSEN”
 ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR YEAR FOUR
 OF NATIONAL TOUR
 INCLUDING RUN AT
 CENTER THEATRE GROUP / AHMANSON THEATRE
 JUNE 29 – JULY 31**

Casting is set for the Los Angeles engagement of “**Dear Evan Hansen,**” at Center Theatre Group / Ahmanson Theatre June 29 through July 31, 2022. The winner of six Tony® Awards, including Best Musical in 2017, will open July 1, 2022.

“Dear Evan Hansen” producer **Stacey Mindich** is pleased to announce complete casting for year four of the Tony Award-winning musical’s record-breaking national tour. **Anthony Norman** will play the title role Evan Hansen, **Coleen Sexton** will play his mother, Heidi Hansen and **Lili Thomas** will play Cynthia Murphy, mother to Zoe and Connor. **Pablo Laucerica** and **Micaela Lamas** also join the onstage company as family friend Jared Kleinman and classmate Alana Beck. **John Hemphill, Nikhil Saboo** and **Alaina Anderson** all remain with the tour, continuing their roles as Larry Murphy, Connor Murphy, and Zoe Murphy respectively.

The cast also includes **Jeffrey Cornelius** (as the Evan alternate) and understudies **Valeria Ceballos, Ian Coursey, Reese Sebastian Diaz, Gillian Jackson Han, Isabel Santiago, Daniel Robert Sullivan, Kelsey Venter** and **Pierce Wheeler**.

“Dear Evan Hansen” features a book by Tony Award-winner **Steven Levenson** (“Fosse/Verdon”), a score by Grammy®, Tony® and Academy Award® winners **Benj Pasek and Justin Paul** (“La La Land,” “The Greatest Showman”), and direction by four-time Tony Award nominee **Michael Greif** (“Rent,” “Next to Normal”). Declared “one of the most remarkable shows in musical theater history” by The Washington Post’s Peter Marks, “Dear Evan Hansen” opened at the Music Box Theatre to rave reviews on December 4, 2016, where it’s broken all box office records and struck a chord with critics and audiences alike. It went on to win six 2017 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, the Drama League Award for Outstanding Musical Production, two Obie Awards, a Drama Desk Award, two Outer Critics Circle Awards and two Helen Hayes Awards.

The show launched its First North American Tour at the Buell Theatre in Denver, Colorado in October 2018; it relaunched on December 7, 2021 in Greensboro, North Carolina with Stephen Christopher Anthony returning as Evan Hansen, and will visit more than 30 cities across the U.S. and Canada in the 2022/2023 season. The show’s newest production, the 2020 Olivier Award-winner for Best Musical, has reopened in London at the Noël Coward Theatre in October starring Sam Tutty, who won the Oliver Award for Best Actor in a Musical for the role.

The Grammy Award-winning Original Broadway Cast Recording of “Dear Evan Hansen,” produced by Atlantic Records, was released in February 2017, making an extraordinary debut on the Billboard 200 and entering the chart at number eight – the highest charting debut position for an original cast album since 1961 – and went on to win the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. The show’s now-iconic blue polo and arm cast are part of the permanent collection of the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading nonprofit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, and in collaboration with the five Associate Artistic Directors, Luis Alfaro, Lindsay Allbaugh, Tyrone Davis, Neel Keller, Kelley Kirkpatrick, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the nation’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics and circumstance to serve Los Angeles.

Tickets for “Dear Evan Hansen” are currently on sale and start at \$40. They are available through [CenterTheatreGroup.org](https://www.centertheatregroup.org), Audience Services at (213) 972-4400 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Offices (at the Ahmanson Theatre) at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012. Performances run Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

For the time being, Center Theatre Group will continue to require masks, along with proof of full vaccination, and a government- or education-issued ID at all of our venues. Booster shots are strongly recommended. This is consistent with the commitments we have made with our artists, staff and audiences to ensure their safety. Per the guidelines set by the CDC, “full vaccination” means that at least 14 days have passed since receiving the final dose of an FDA-authorized or WHO-listed COVID-19 vaccine. Unvaccinated guests, including children or those with a medical or religious

reason, must provide proof of a negative PCR COVID-19 test taken no more than 48 hours prior to attendance, or a negative rapid antigen test taken no more than 24 hours prior. All tests must be administered by a professional. At-home tests will not be accepted.

Center Theatre Group will continue working closely with The Music Center and L.A. County officials to ensure they are following all applicable health and safety protocols. Please note that these health and safety measures are subject to change, at Center Theatre Group’s sole discretion and based on evolving health and safety guidance and conditions. More information regarding safety updates as well as audience vaccination, testing and mask requirements is available at CenterTheatreGroup.org/Safety

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June 16, 2022

BIOS:

ANTHONY NORMAN (*Evan Hansen*) Multi-instrumentalist from Chicago. Broadway: “The Prom” (OBC); National Tour: “Newsies;” TV/Film: “Mare of Easttown,” “Chicago Med,” “Newsies Live,” “Dropping” (upcoming); Selected Regional: Marcus in “Murder for Two” (FLMTF). To stream upcoming EP and future announcements, check out anthonyjnorman.com or follow @a_norms on Instagram.

ALAINA ANDERSON (*Zoe Murphy*) is elated to be making her professional debut! Proud alum of Yale University, B.A. Cognitive Science. Previous roles include Aldonza (“Man of La Mancha”), Wendla (“Spring Awakening”), Cinderella (“Into The Woods”), and Nina (“In The Heights”). IG/Twitter: @laynieanderson. TikTok: @alainymous. alainanicoleanderson.com

COLEEN SEXTON (*Heidi Hansen*) starred on Broadway as Lucy when she was 20 years old in “Jekyll and Hyde,” as well as the TV version “Jekyll and Hyde: Direct from Broadway” opposite David Hasselhoff. National Tours: “Wicked” (Elphaba); “Legally Blonde” (Brooke Wyndham); “Chicago” (June/Go-To-Hell Kitty/US Mama Morton). Regional: “Mamma Mia!” (Donna); “Spamalot” (Lady of The Lake); “End of the Rainbow” (Judy Garland). @colsex79

LILI THOMAS (*Cynthia Murphy*) is overjoyed to join “Dear Evan Hansen” Recently in Dave Malloy’s pre-Broadway run of “Octet.” Off-Broadway: “We’re Gonna Die” (2nd Stage), “The Hello Girls,” “Only Human.” Select regional: Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Berkeley Rep, Milwaukee Rep, The Rev. B.F.A. NYU/Tisch. @thelilithomas

NIKHIL SABOO (*Connor Murphy*) is elated to join the tour of “Dear Evan Hansen”—aligning in his purpose of creating space, opening other’s perspectives, and lifting up all aspiring South Asian artists across the country. Prior, Nikhil was on tour with the Angelica Company of “Hamilton” and in the original Broadway cast of “Mean Girls.” Gratitude to Stewart Talent, the DEH company, and my tribe. @nikhil.saboo

JOHN HEMPHILL (*Larry Murphy*) starred on Broadway as Sam/Bill in “Mamma Mia!,” original Broadway company of Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “School Of Rock.” First National Tour of “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.” Film: “Zodiac” directed by Academy Award nominated David Fincher. TV: “Castle,” “Monk,” “Las Vegas,” “The Black List,” “Mr. Robot,” “Big Love” among others. @johnhemphill

PABLO LAUCERICA (*Jared Kleinman*) is a Miami-born Cuban-American. He recently graduated from Northwestern University, specializing in vocal performance and musical theatre. His main artistic interests include acting, songwriting, music production and content creation. Find his music content on TikTok/Instagram @pablodlaucERICA.

MICAELA LAMAS (*Alana Beck*). Micaela is thrilled to join the “Dear Evan Hansen” fam! She's a recent grad of the Texas State University B.F.A. Musical Theatre program and a Texas native.

JEFFREY CORNELIUS (*Alternate Evan Hansen; u/s Jared Kleinman*) is ecstatic to be making his national tour debut in “Dear Evan Hansen.” Jackson MS Native and Current Student at CCM. “LINK: Class 4,” “Homeschool Musical: Class of 2020” on HBO Max. Favorite Shows include “Pippin” (CCM), “Once” (CCM). @thejeffreycornelius on Instagram.

VALERIA CEBALLOS (*u/s Zoe Murphy; Alana Beck*) is thrilled to be making her Broadway National Tour debut! @valeriaeceballos

IAN COURSEY (*u/s Connor Murphy; Jared Kleinman*) recently finished his sophomore year at the University of Michigan. At Michigan, he is proud to have played the roles of Eddie Birdlace (“Dogfight”), and George Berger (“Hair”).

REESE SEBASTIAN DIAZ (*u/s Evan Hansen, Connor Murphy, Jared Kleinman*). Broadway: Mary Poppins. National Tours: “Mary Poppins,” “Beauty and the Beast.” @ReeseSDiaz

GILLIAN JACKSON HAN (*u/s Zoe Murphy, Alana Beck*) is over the moon to be making her national tour debut in “Dear Evan Hansen.” She is a proud member of the AAPI/multiracial community and is filled with gratitude for the actors whose work made her own career possible. Twitter, Instagram, TikTok: @with_a_gee

ISABEL SANTIAGO (*u/s Heidi Hansen, Cynthia Murphy*) Select Movie/TV: “Blue Bloods,” “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert,” “In The Heights” and “Martin Eden.” Off-

Broadway: “First Daughter Suite,” “GIANT.” National Tour: “In The Heights.” Concert: “PBS’ Great Performances: Bernstein’s MASS,” The Chicago Symphony Orchestra and The Philadelphia Orchestra. @mynamesl Isabel

DANIEL ROBERT SULLIVAN (*u/s Larry Murphy*) performed as Tommy DeVito in Jersey Boys more than 1000 times with the Las Vegas, Toronto and touring companies, and in the national tour of “Motown the Musical.” He’s the author of “Prospect High: Brooklyn,” “Braving the Bronx River,” “Becoming A Jersey Boy” and “There’s No Substitute for Empathy.”

KELSEY VENTER (*u/s Heidi Hansen, Cynthia Murphy*). National Tour: “Dear Evan Hansen.” Selected Regional: Guthrie Theater, American Conservatory Theater, Old Globe Theater. B.A. in Theater SDSU, M.F.A. American Conservatory Theater. kelseyventer.com

PIERCE WHEELER (*u/s Evan Hansen, Jared Kleinman*). Pierce is so excited to make his professional debut with the “Dear Evan Hansen” family. After studying for a year at NYU Tisch, he is thankful to travel the country and tell this beautiful story. @pierce_wheeler

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