



amish hip hop and hair

Lied Center Performances
Rock the Stage

AMISH HIP HOP MUSICAL, CROSSING OVER, IS BACK AT THE LIED CENTER FOR A FULL STAGED READING IN THE JOHNNY CARSON THEATER ON MARCH 13TH.

Crossing Over is the story of an Amish girl, Rebecca, who dreams of being a musician. Conflict arises for the talented singer when she must choose between a record deal with a hip-hop preacher or the safety of the Amish life she has always lived. Crossing Over explores cross cultural relationships and the tension that arises when the needs of the individual contrast with that of the community.

Crossing Over first graced the stage of the Lied in September 2013 as a part of their "Grow a Show" initiative, in which writers of selected shows are given the opportunity to workshop with, and be mentored, by experts in the theater field. Out of over 100 submissions, Crossing Over was chosen to be a featured production in the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) New Musical Theater Workshop.

The Workshops, held only in New York City, Los Angeles and Lincoln, select shows with Broadway potential. After selection of Crossing Over, writers Stephanie Salzman and Deborah Brevoort participated in the workshop process in Lincoln. They were mentored by experts such as Michael Kerker, director of Musical Theater for ASCAP, and then returned to their homes in New York to continue development. Salzman and Brevoort returned to Lincoln this week for a 10-day residency with Director Becky Key Boesen and the cast and crew, who will culminate Crossing Over into a one night fully staged reading.

"This process of development is the theatrical equivalent to skydiving," Boesen said of her experience with "Grow a Show" and Crossing Over. "The writers are remarkable, mega talented and are entirely geared toward the development of their show. We have all worked long hours together - making quick changes, needing to be fast on our feet in development. Every night there is new material to add and old material to take out. The revision process is happening immediately, which means that the entire team has to not only be comfortable with working this way but actually has to thrive on this type of process. It's exciting because everyone here understands the scope of this and they are passionate



about it.”

This process doesn’t end for the fully staged reading on the 13th, but the play will actually build momentum. According to Boesen, “Theater doesn’t exist without an audience. We can’t go forward with this process without inviting the world into the play. The developmental work of the fully staged reading is super exciting because the audience is almost like the midwives of the theater, watching this baby being born.”

The already sold out show of Crossing Over will experience what Boesen calls a “living, breathing, fleshed out piece of theater with fully fleshed out characters, relationships, action and fluidity just as if they were walking into a full scale production.” There will be no lighting or costume changes, and actors will use music stands as grounding points, but nonetheless it is a an experience, and an exciting next step in the development of this show.

Crossing Over, Lied Center for Performing Arts, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. To reserve your seat, please visit the Lied Center ticket office at 12th

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need2know

HAIR, Lied Center for Performing Arts, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at LiedCenter.org, at the Box Office on 12th and R Streets, or by phone at 402-472-4747. Tickets start at just \$40 for adults, \$20 for students.

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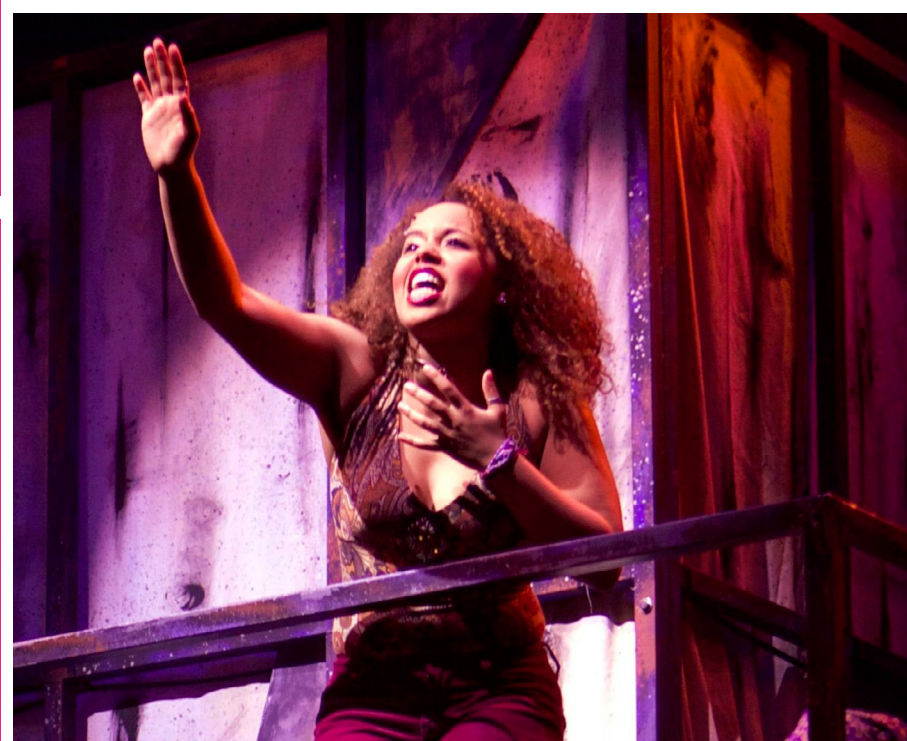
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and R Streets or call 402-472-4747. Seating is limited.

During the same week as *Crossing Over*, comes the iconic rock musical, *HAIR*, winner of the 2009 Tony Award for best musical revival. The Broadway musical hits the stage at the Lied Center of the Performing Arts on March 15.

Set in America in the 1960's Vietnam era, *HAIR* tells the story of the "tribe", politically active hippie friends rebelling against involuntary enrollment into the war. Members of the tribe struggle for balance in the face of opposition from conservative parents and society while seeking independence and expression in their lives, relationships, and amidst a sexual revolution.

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- becky key boesen

The main character, Claude, played by Erik Kopacsi, is in love with Sheila, another member of the tribe. Claude has been drafted into the Vietnam War and must decide whether to go to jail for refusing his conscription into the war or face possible

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