



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CAST ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEW MUSICAL ANNE OF GREEN GABLES**

**Issaquah, WA** – Village Theatre is excited to announce the cast of the bright, inspiring new musical, ANNE OF GREEN GABLES. The show opens in Issaquah on November 11 and runs through January 2, before moving to Everett and running January 7-30. Co-directed by Steve Tomkins (*42<sup>nd</sup> Street*) and Vanessa Miller (2010 Festival Reading of *Green Gables*), the cast of this new musical features a largely local cast, which includes Seattle-favorite, Suzy Hunt.

Critically acclaimed actor **Suzy Hunt** is set to play Marilla Cuthbert in Village Theatre's production of ANNE OF GREEN GABLES. In 2009, Hunt received rave reviews and audience applause for her work as Grandma Kurnitz in *Lost in Yonkers* at Village Theatre. She last worked with director Steve Tomkins in the 1999 production of the new musical *Eleanor*, and most recently she has been seen on stage in Seattle at ACT Theatre in *The Female of the Species*, a role in which she generated substantial critical acclaim. She has performed on Broadway in *Execution of Justice* directed by Emily Mann, Off-Broadway, and in most of the fifty states.

Taking center stage, the charismatic **Kasey Nusbickel** champions the role of the precocious Anne Shirley. Nusbickel is set to play both a young and a grown Anne in this new musical production—she performed the role of Anne in the Village Originals 2009 Festival of New Musicals reading as well. Previous Village Theatre credits include *Show Boat*, *The Who's TOMMY*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *CATS*. Over the past year, she has been seen at the 5th Avenue Theatre in *On The Town*, *White Christmas*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

**Matthew John Kacergis** returns to Village Theatre in the role of Gilbert Blythe. Last seen at Village Theatre as Aucassin in the new musical *Chasing Nicolette* (2009), Kacergis is a Seattle native, and current New York resident. Additional credits include turns as Lt. Cable in *South Pacific*, The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Dickon in *The Secret Garden*, and Fyedka in *Fiddler On The Roof*.

With a number of Village Originals roles under his belt, **Dennis Bateman** returns to the Mainstage to take on the role of Anne's loving, adoptive father, Matthew Cuthbert. Last seen on the Mainstage in *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2004) and *Play It By Heart* (2005), Bateman was most recently seen in the Village Originals 2009 Festival reading of *Take Me America*. One of the latest to guest-starred on TNT's *Leverage*, Bateman's other film and television credits include *In My Shoes* (2010), *Men of Honor*, *The Fugitive*, and *Northern Exposure*.

# Village Theatre

**Additional cast members include:** Margaret Bicknell, Carissa Campbell, Emily Cawley, Jeff Church, Kristin Culp, Beth DeVries, Analiese Guettinger, Annelise Gudenkauf, William Hamer, Trish LaGrua, Jon Lutyens, Cheryl Massey-Peters, Henry Nettleton, Abby Duke Pollard, Michael Spee, John David Scott, and Benjamin Luke Wynant. Please find full cast here: [http://www.villagetheatre.org/fm\\_cast.php](http://www.villagetheatre.org/fm_cast.php)

Village Theatre's production of ANNE OF GREEN GABLES is co-directed by Steve Tomkins and Vanessa Miller, with co-choreography by Steve Tomkins and Kristin Culp (*42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Meet Me in St. Louis*), scenic design by Scott Fyfe (*Chasing Nicolette, Stunt Girl*); lighting design by Aaron Copp (*42nd Street, Meet Me In St. Louis*); and costume design by Deane Middleton (*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*).

Pre-production photos will be available online after October 28, 2010. For more information or to schedule individual interviews, please contact Michelle Sanders at (425) 392-1942 x124 or [msanders@villagetheatre.org](mailto:msanders@villagetheatre.org).

## **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES Synopsis:**

Captivating readers for over a century, Lucy Maud Montgomery's treasured, best-selling novel is transformed into this charming new musical. When the Cuthbert's expect to adopt a boy, imagine their surprise when a talkative and clever young girl steps off the train in Avonlea. Witness Anne's transformation from a playful young girl to a confident young woman as she finds her way into the hearts of everyone she meets—despite a knack for getting into trouble! Set to an unforgettably beautiful score, this is an enduring story for all ages.

## **About Village Theatre**

Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining quality productions for the entire family since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region's best-attended Equity theatres, with over 18,000 Subscribers and 182,000 projected total attendance each season. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having launched over 90 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its youth education programs, Pied Piper and KIDSTAGE, serving over 54,000 young people, families, and schools annually.

*Village Theatre season sponsors are Continental Airlines, Microsoft, and Lombardi's*

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