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Chester Theatre Company Opens Its 2022 Season This Week With a Modern Take on Jane Austen

Chester Theatre Company (CTC), now in its 33rd summer of theatre in Western Massachusetts, opens the season on Thursday with *Pride@Prejudice*. This lively adaptation features thirty characters played by five diverse and versatile actors in the company's joyful return to its home in the Town Hall Theatre.

The Jane Austen classic is reimagined with bloggers, chat rooms, Austen enthusiasts, and even Jane herself! A hilarious and moving homage to the beloved novel, this adaptation delighted audiences eleven years ago, and promises to be equally charming in its second incarnation in Chester.

"It's an absolute delight to be revisiting this play, and this time as director. The 2011 production at Chester was one of my first projects with this theatre company," said **Daniel Elihu Kramer**, Producing Artistic Director. I feel so fortunate to bring that experience full circle, and with this truly wonderful cast."

Kramer directs his work for the first time. Actors **Candace Barrett Birk** (*Tiny Beautiful Things*), **Luke Hofmaier** (*Now Circa Then*), and **Marielle Young** (*Mary's Wedding, The Night Alive*) all return to Chester Theatre Company, while **Claire Fort** and **Brian Patterson** make their debuts on the Town Hall Stage.

The design team for *Pride@Prejudice* consists of **Lara Dubin** CTC's Resident Lighting Designer, **Juliana von Haubrich**, who designed the scenery for all three shows last summer, now returns to create the world of Jane Austen, **Christina Beam** designs costumes, and **Alexander Sovronsky** designs sound. **Leslie Sears**, stage manager for the entire 2021 season, returns to manage the 2022 inaugural production.

Performances run June 23 to July 3. Show times are Wednesday at 2pm, Thursday at 2pm and 7:30pm, Friday at 7:30pm, Saturday at 2pm and 7:30pm, and Sunday at 2pm. Talkbacks follow the Thursday and Saturday matinees, and Cast Conversations follow the Friday shows. There is a panel discussion after the first Sunday matinee of each run.

All performances will take place in the intimate setting of Chester's Historic Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA. Individual ticket prices are \$52.50. Chester and Middlefield residents, members of the military and their families, ConnectorCare enrollees, and those holding EBT/SNAP cards may purchase discounted tickets by calling the box office. Student Rush \$10 tickets are available day of show. Single

tickets and season subscriptions may be purchased online at chestertheatre.org, or by phone at 413.354.7771. Special rates for groups of ten or more are available.

CTC will be requiring proof of vaccination or, alternately, proof of a negative test taken the day of the show, and masking for entry. See the website for full details.

About Chester Theatre Company

Founded by a former Artistic Director of Dublin's Abbey Theatre, Vincent Dowling, Chester Theatre Company is an award-winning professional theatre company known for presenting high quality, contemporary productions with top-notch actors, directors, and designers from across the country since 1990.

For further information, please call CTC at 413.354.7770, or visit www.chestertheatre.org.

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