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Hunchback of notre dame musical deaf actor

Check out a new clip of 5th Avenue Theatre's The Hunchback of Notre Dame, starring Joshua Castille, a former cast member of the Disney musical as Quasimodo. As shown in the video above, Castille performs in American Sign Language throughout the production, while E.J. Cardona provides Quasimodo's "voice". The Hunchback of Notre Dame is based on the 1996 Disney animated film and the novel by Victor Hugo. The show features a book by Peter Parnell, music by Alan Menken, and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. The current production is directed by Glenn Casale and choreographed by Dana Solimando. The cast also includes Dan'yelle Williamson as Esmeralda, Allen Fitzpatrick as Dom Claude Frollo, Brandon O'Neill as Phoebus, and Dane Stokinger as Clopin. The show is currently running and will continue performances to June 24. Tickets can be purchased at 5thAvenue.org, by calling (206) 625-1900, or at the box office at 1308 5th Avenue in Downtown Seattle. Click Here to Shop for TheatreMerchandise in the Playbill Store John McGinty La Mirada Theatre For The Performing Arts and McCoy Rigby Entertainment have announced that deaf actor John McGinty will play Quasimodo in the Los Angeles premiere of The Hunchback of Notre Dame; Dino Nicandros will perform as his singing voice. The casting comes following the success of Deaf West's Spring Awakening on Broadway, which featured a diverse company made up of deaf and hard-of-hearing actors, who garnered critical acclaim. The musical is set to kick off La Mirada's 2016-17 season, with direction by Glenn Casale, music direction by Dennis Castellano and choreography Dana Solimando. Performances will run September 16-October 9 with an official opening set for September 17. Hunchback debuted at New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse in 2015 (a co-production with La Jolla Playhouse). The new musical is a collaboration between theatre heavyweights Alan Menken (composer), Stephen Schwartz (lyricist) and Peter Parnell (book writer). The show is inspired by Victor Hugo's classic novel and the popular Disney film. READ MORE: WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO HUNCHBACK? The principal cast for the L.A. debut will also feature Cassie Simone as Esmeralda, Mark Jacoby as Frollo, Keith A. Bearden as Clopin and Eric Kunze as Phoebus. The ensemble features Brandon Burks, Doug Carfrae, Cherrie Badajos Cruz, Emily Dauwalder, Rachel Farr, Lance Galgon, Hannah Madeleine Goodman, Devon Hadsell, William Martinez, Kevin McMahon, Shannon Stoeke, Stephanie Thiessen and Paul Zelhart. The production will also have scenic design by Stephen Gifford; lighting design by Jared Sayeg; sound design by Josh Bessom; costume design by Marcy Froehlich; and hair/make-up/wig design by Leah J. Loukas. Casting is by Julia Flores, and the production stage manager is John W. Calder, III. Tickets can be purchased at La Mirada Theatre's website, lamiradatheatre.com, or by calling the La Mirada Theatre Box Office at (562) 944-9801 or (714) 994-6310. Join our host Irish Examiner Life/Style Editor, Esther McCarthy with guests Caroline Casey, Emer O'Neill, Edel Coffey and Dr. Tara Shine as we make a call to action for accelerating women's equality. It's not very common to see deaf actors having leading roles in plays. However, Disney just gave a huge step forward in promoting deaf talent. Even though this is not their first time having deaf actor, this is the first time ever, both on stage and screen that an iconic deaf character is being played by a deaf actor. Photo by broadwayworld.comDisney hired a Deaf actor for 2016's Music Circus, featuring The Hunchback of Notre Dame. John McGinty plays the role of Quasimodo. If you're not familiar with the story, this Victor Hugo novel from 1831 is centered on the deaf and deformed Quasimodo. He is described as a "creation of the devil" and "hideous" with a huge wart covering his left eye and a severe hunchback. Because of his looks, he is abandoned as a baby and adopted and raised by Claude Frollo, the Archdeacon of Notre Dame. Quasimodo is the bell-ringer of the Cathedral for all of his life, which is exactly what makes him deaf - the extremely loud and constant noise of the bells. Photo by broadwayworld.comThe play is focused on how Quasimodo is loyal to Frollo, doing everything he asks. However, a time comes when he falls in love with Esmeralda who is simply terrified of him as well as repulsed. He saves her from death once, however, when they were least expecting, she is seized and hanged for witchcraft. The devastating thing about the story is that it was his master Frollo who had her killed. Quasimodo feels betrayed and murdered Frollo, finishing the play with Quasimodo dying next to Esmeralda's body. Even though this story is dated from 1831, there are many situations and lessons we can relate to in our current times. The prominent lesson is the fact that most people still discriminate others based on appearance and disability. No matter how good or bad-looking someone is, this doesn't make them a good or a bad person as the handsome yet cold-hearted Phoebus proves in the play. There are lovely individuals who happen to be deaf as well as there are terrible individuals who happen to not be deaf, as Quasimodo shows. This is what made the story a timeless classic and reproduced on screen and stage over and over again. Photo by broadwayworld.comThis is also why it's important that such a big company as Disney has taken this step; especially because it's not easy for any actor to play it it's even more challenging and raw. John McGinty has experience performing on professional stages and even he says this is a new challenge, he speaks his own lines and signs during the songs. The role of Billy in an all-hearing production of Tribes was easier for McGinty compared to Quasimodo's in Hunchback of Notre Dame. He only had 9 days of rehearsals with his singing voice was Jim Hogan at the California Musical Theater. They had to work closely together in a short window of time to ensure that they are seamless on stage and their tempo is right in such a short time! At 30 years old, McGinty relates on a personal level to the character Quasimodo. McGinty relates on a personal level to the character Quasimodo. it: "it's one of those things of being a deaf individual in a hearing world. I feel alone. I feel depressed sometimes. He's [Quasimodo] so innocent and tries to open his world...that relates to my life because here I am signing, and I really desire communication with the hearing world."The Hunchback of Notre Dame premiered at the California Musical Theater of Sacramento on August 23 and traveled to Los Angeles to perform at the La Mirada theater. Editor's Note 10/4/16: Corrections were made regarding the singing voice actors; Dino Nicandros is the singer for the LA performance while Jim Hogan performed in Sacramento. Photo by broadwayworld.com[su_youtube url=" �� autoplay="yes"] WTOP's Jason Fraley previews 'Hunchback' by Arlington Players' unique new production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," which stars Alex Bryce, who, like his iconic character Quasimodo, happens to be deaf. "It's just been an incredible opportunity," Bryce told WTOP. "I never thought I could have an opportunity like this. It's exciting beyond belief. ... It's just been a great learning experience (and) I'm looking forward to seeing how the audience reacts to my version of Quasimodo." Adapted by playwright Peter Parnell from the 1831 novel by Victor Hugo, the story follows deformed Paris recluse Quasimodo (Bryce), whose controlling uncle Frollo (Adam Strube) keeps him isolated in the bell towers of Notre Dame Cathedral. One day, Quasimodo decides to explore the outside world, falling for the beautiful gypsy Esmeralda (Adelina Mitchell). "Quasimodo decides to explore the outside world, falling for the beautiful gypsy Esmeralda (Adelina Mitchell)." from the world," Bryce said. "He meets a girl named Esmeralda as well. So, you have a lot of dramatic tension in that love triangle. You also have the storyline of Quasimodo trying to figure out who he is, in and of himself and in relation to other people, because he has been in this forced isolation up until this point." The original story elements actually make perfect sense for a deaf actor in the role. "The original Quasimodo from the book has been made deaf by the ringing of the bells," director Rich Farella told WTOP. "We had the opportunity to cast a deaf actor in a deaf role." How exactly does the sign language work on stage? "We still have someone singing his voice ... who gets to sing all the beautiful numbers and speak occasionally when Quasi's inner monologue is being displayed," Farella said. "Every performance will be exactly the same from Alex's perspective. Alex will be on stage for every performance. He will be signing the show whenever Quasi's line is spoken." In addition, there will be a specific performance, where off the stage will be interpreted for one night, so that the deaf community has an opportunity to see this show and to see a musical where they otherwise might not be able to follow what's going on." The show will feature the Oscar-nominated Disney songbook of Alan Menken (music) and Stephen Schwartz (lyrics), including such memorable songs as "Topsy Turvy" and "Out There." "That was one of my favorite songs growing up — and not a small reason why I wanted to do this show," Farella said of "Out There," which features lyrics extra fitting for them. And out there, living in the sun, Give me one day out there, all I ask is one. To hold forever, out there! Where they all live unaware. What I'd give, what I'd dare, just to live one day out there!" These songs unfold against period sets by Dan Widerski and costumes by Joan Lawrence. "Joan has designed some beautiful costumes," Farella said. "He will have a hunch and makeup, but we want to show the humanity in Quasi, so we're not going to do a full prosthetic. We want the audience to understand that even though he is different, he is just like them." How does Bryce perform the hunched body language made famous by Charles Laughton? "It was a really big challenge trying to practice with a hunch and naturally shape my body to look like it has a hunch," Bryce said. "I've been mostly successful with as little pains as I can manage, but it is tough because I'm a larger guy. The man who plays Frollo is smaller in stature, so it's just a lot of interesting physically hunched over, my shoulders are crooked, I might favor one arm. ... So I'll have a shorter range with my left arm." How does he enjoy his onstage chemistry with Mitchell's Esmeralda? "The two of us have a few scenes together," Bryce said. "There's a really good natural energy, an openness. It's very easy for the two of us to work together and have those dialogues when we're in character. I feel like Quasimodo really connects with her character Esmeralda, the warmth and energy that she has, and that allows for the connection to happen. ... At the end, I actually teach her to sign. She agreed it was really important to have that human connection." For Bryce, it's a moment of personal triumph in his second ever role. "I was involved in a deaf theater world in college," Bryce said. "It was really great to see that deaf people can be involved on a community theater stage [like Arlington Players]. I had been involved backstage, helping with the painting and building of sets, but you really don't have a lot of opportunities to see where deaf people can be involved. ... When you bring in a deaf actor, it gives a different spin and perspective on the stories you might already know." We may know the story, but I have a hunch this rendition will give audiences goose bumps. Find more details on the theater website. Hear our full conversation with the cast and crew below: WTOP's Jason Fraley

