

THE GLOBAL **WAITRESS** PHENOMENON IS COMING TO MONTRÉAL IN 2024!

BROADWAY CHOOSES JUSTE POUR RIRE FOR THE WORLD PREMIERE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE PRODUCTION OF THEIR STUNNINGLY SUCCESSFUL SHOW

Montréal, June 12, 2023 – **Groupe Juste pour rire** is proud to announce that **WAITRESS**, which has already sold over **5 million** tickets worldwide, will be adapted and performed in French for the first time during the summer of 2024! The musical will premiere at **Théâtre St-Denis** in Espace St-Denis beginning **June 22, 2024**. Tickets are on sale now. **WAITRESS** will then move to Salle Albert-Rousseau in Quebec City.

After receiving rave reviews from around the world (*USA, UK, Ireland, Argentina, Japan, Denmark, Poland and Philippines*) and numerous honours, including four **Tony Award** nominations (one of which was for Best Musical) this touching, funny yet thoughtful show skillfully moves audiences from laughter to tears. Take some sugar, flour and butter, add a cup of female solidarity, a teaspoon of friendship and a generous pinch of love, and voilà! These are the simple ingredients of the Broadway musical **WAITRESS**'s success since 2015.

The show's Broadway creators have entrusted the rights for the world premiere of the first-ever, French-language version of **WAITRESS** to Quebec, solidifying once more **Juste pour rire's** position as leading producer of musicals in the province. The Quebec production team will work closely with the original show's creators to ensure that this favourite of both audiences and the musical theatre industry will be presented in summer 2024 in its original version. The cast and production team will be announced in the fall.

"We are thrilled to be working with Barry & Fran Weissler and Alecia Parker, from the National Artists Management Company in New York, to offer our audiences the original Broadway production but in our own language and with local artists! We are convinced that Quebec audiences will identify with this feel-good musical!"

– **Patrick Rozon**, Chief Creative Officer Groupe Juste pour rire

*"We are so grateful to **Juste Pour Rire** for their commitment to bringing **WAITRESS** to Montreal. We can't wait to share the first French translation of this beautiful musical with Quebec audiences. Sucre, beurre, farine!"*

– **Barry & Fran Weissler**, National Artists Management Company

WAITRESS, the story

WAITRESS tells the story of waitress Jenna who is stuck in a small town and a loveless marriage. When a baking contest in a nearby county offers her a chance at escape, Jenna fights to reclaim a long-forgotten part of herself. Thanks to the support of her fellow waitresses, and an unexpected romance, Jenna begins to find the courage to take a long-abandoned dream off the shelf. Will Jenna find the recipe for happiness? Waitress celebrates the power of friendship, dreams, the family we choose, and the beauty of a well baked pie.

Based on the 2007 motion picture written by Adrienne Shelly, **WAITRESS** is the first Broadway musical in history to have been created only by women. The talented *Grammy Award* winning singer/songwriter **Sara Bareilles** (*Love Song, Brave*) wrote the words and music. The book was written by **Jessie Nelson** (*I Am Sam, Stepmom*), the play was choreographed by **Lorin Latarro** (*Into The Woods, Mrs. Doubtfire*) and directed by *Tony Award*® winner **Diane Paulus** (*Hair, Pippin, Jagged Little Pill*).

"It is absolutely thrilling to see Waitress find its way to new audiences around the world," says Sara Bareilles. *"For our beloved show to be performed in Montreal and in French is an honor. It will bring new dimension and depth and I can't wait to see how this story, which means so much to me, resonates with the incredible people in Quebec and beyond."*

– **Sara Bareilles**, winning singer/songwriter

Juste pour rire and musicals: a 20-year tradition!

Since 2003, the company has produced 18 musicals that have delighted over a million spectators across Quebec. **Juste pour rire** has revived the greatest Broadway classics – including *Grease* and *Annie* as well as *Footloose* and *Mary Poppins* – in French-language versions crafted by Quebec creators. The company was the first to produce several of Broadway's greatest musicals in French, including *Chicago*, *Rent* and now **WAITRESS**. And let's not forget that the musical **HAIR**, starring **Philippe Touzel**, **Kevin Houle** and **Éléonore Lagacé**, opens at Théâtre St-Denis on Friday. Eleven additional dates have also been announced, from **July 12 to 23**. Join the party and don't miss this show, which promises to be the hit of summer 2023!

**WAITRESS WILL BE SHOWING FROM JUNE 22, 2024 AT THÉÂTRE ST-DENIS
TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT HAHHA.COM**

WAITRESS

Book
JESSIE NELSON

Music and Lyrics
SARA BAREILLES

Original Director
DIANE PAULUS

Based upon the motion picture written by **Adrienne Shelly**

Orchestrations by
Sara Bareilles & The Waitress Band
Music by Arrangement with Sony/ATV Music Publishing

Originally Produced on Broadway by
Barry and Fran Weissler Norton and Elayne Herrick

David I. Berley Independent Presenters Network A.C. Orange International Peter May Michael Roiff
Ken Schur Marisa Sechrest Jam Theatricals 42nd.club/Square I Theatrics Benjamin Simpson & Joseph
Longthorne/Shira Friedman
Alecia Parker, Executive Producer

Original motion picture produced by Michael Roiff/Night & Day Pictures
World premiere produced by the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University, August 2, 2015
Diane Paulus, Artistic Director and Diane Borger, Producer
Peter Duchan, Script Consultant for A.R.T. Production

ABOUT GROUPE JUSTE POUR RIRE

Global leader in comedy and home of the #1 comedy festival in the world, **Groupe Juste pour rire** has been launching and championing top comedic talent such as Kevin Hart, Jean-Marc Parent, Hasan Minhaj, Ève Côté, Virginie Fortin and Jo Koy – for close to 40 years. Founded in 1983, the company is a vertically integrated international powerhouse in the creation of multiplatform comedic content. Each year, millions of spectators are entertained at its festivals around the world, from Montréal – the largest comedy event in the world – to Toronto and Vancouver, Canada; Austin, USA; London, UK; and Sydney, Australia; which feature thousands of Canadian and international comedians, from well-established artists to aspiring up-and-comers. With concentrated growth on television development and production, the Group's digital and televised content is shown in over 150 countries and followed by an online audience of over 14 million. The Groupe is also one of Quebec's leading comedy musical producers and has been bringing Broadway hits to Quebec to be performed in French, often for the very first time for over 20 years. The Groupe also acts as an agent for a host of Quebec artists. Groupe Juste pour rire also organizes ComedyPRO industry conference. For more information, visit hahaha.com.

-30-

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Source: Groupe Juste pour rire

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