

PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY

at the

Suzanne Roberts Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

En Route Marketing

Tracy Buchholz

tracy@enroutemarketing.com

**PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY ANNOUNCES CASTING AND CREATIVE FOR
*SMALL BALL***

AN OFF-BEAT NEW MUSICAL ABOUT SPORTS, IDENTITY, AND THE ART OF PLAY

Directed by Taibi Magar and Tyler Dobrowsky

Book and Lyrics by Mickle Maher

Music by Merel van Dijk and Anthony Barilla

Commissioned and Co-Produced by

Daryl Morey, President of Basketball Operations, Philadelphia 76ers

PHOTOS: [CLICK HERE](#)

PHILADELPHIA, PA – May 9, 2025 – Philadelphia Theatre Company is pleased to announce the cast and creative team of its season-closing production, [Small Ball](#). Commissioned and co-produced by **Daryl Morey**, President of Basketball Operations for the Philadelphia 76ers, *Small Ball* is an off-beat and surreal musical about a professional basketball team, a mysterious new recruit, a tiny island nation, and the big questions that bounce between them. Featuring a book by **Mickle Maher**, an original score by **Merel van Dijk** and **Anthony Barilla**, and direction by PTC Co-Artistic Directors **Taibi Magar** and **Tyler Dobrowsky**, *Small Ball* runs June 6–29, 2025, at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre. A special 50th Anniversary Gala will take place on opening night, Wednesday, June 11, at 7:30 PM.

Joining PTC for the East Coast premiere of *Small Ball* is a dynamic cast of nationally and internationally acclaimed performers whose work spans Broadway, major national tours, film, and award-winning regional theatre. The cast includes:

Adam Chanler-Berat (*Next to Normal*, *Peter and The Starcatcher*, and *Amélie* on Broadway); **Jordan Dobson** (*Hadestown*, *Bad Cinderella*, *A Beautiful Noise* on Broadway); **Sarah Gliko** (Barrymore Award winner, *The Bridges of Madison County* at PTC); **Nadina Hassan** (*Mean Girls* 1st National Tour, *We Live in Cairo* at New York Theatre Workshop); **Josh Totora** (Barrymore Award winner, Outstanding Ensemble in a Musical in *Man of La Mancha* at Delaware Theatre Company); **Lexi Thammavong** (*This Is the Week That Is* at 1812 Productions); **Rob Tucker** (*Twelfth Night* at Shakespeare in Clark Park); and **Amy Warren** (*August: Osage County* and *Act One* on Broadway.)

Philadelphia is a sports town, and *Small Ball* taps directly into that passion, while flipping the court upside-down in a journey to the fantastical beach of Lilliput. The musical follows Michael Jordan (no, not *that* Michael Jordan), a melancholy journeyman athlete who finds himself drafted by the Lilliput Existers, a team of six-inch-tall basketball players in an international league. With his dreams stalled and the weight of his new team's fate on his shoulders, Michael must navigate bizarre post-game press conferences, cultural misunderstandings, and existential questions of greatness, all underscored by a vibrant, genre-bending score.

"This is exactly the kind of daring, idiosyncratic, and wildly entertaining show we love bringing to Philadelphia audiences," says **Tyler Dobrowsky**, Co-Artistic Director of PTC. "*Small Ball* is hilarious and heartfelt—a musical that's as much about humanity and purpose as it is about hoops. This city loves sports and even more importantly, an underdog story, and we're thrilled to share it in our home city."

The creative team includes **Katie Spelman** (Choreographer), **Christopher Ash** (Scenic Designer), **Olivera Gajic** (Costume Designer), **Thom Weaver** (Lighting Designer), **G Clausen** (Sound Designer), **Dan Espie** (Music Director), **Liz Forrester** (Stage Manager), **Chloe Kincade** (Assistant Stage Manager), **Taylor Williams, CSA** (Casting Director) and **Brenna Geffers** (Additional Philadelphia Casting).

TICKET INFORMATION

Single tickets start at **\$25**, plus applicable fees. Tickets are available at www.philatheatreco.org. They may also be purchased by phone at **(215) 985-0420** or in person at the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, **480 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146**.

Please note: *Small Ball* contains strong language, adult themes, and surreal humor and is recommended for ages **13 and up**.

PERFORMANCE DATES/ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING

Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

Additional shows each Saturday at 2 p.m.

Additional shows Sunday at 3 p.m.

Wednesday matinees at 1 p.m. on June 18 and June 25

*The Wednesday, June 11 performance will be at 7:30 p.m. as part of PTC's gala.

*There will be no performance on Thursday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.

Student Matinee: Friday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Black Theatre Night: Friday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

Childcare Matinee: Saturday, June 14 at 2 p.m.

Community Night: Friday, June 20 at 7 p.m.

Pre-Show Programming: Sunday, June 15 at 3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 18 at 1 p.m.

Post-Show Conversations: Sunday, June 15 at 3 p.m.

Audio-Described Performance: Saturday, June 14 at 2 p.m.

Open-Captioned Performance: Wednesday, June 18 at 1 p.m.

ASL-Interpreted Performance: Thursday, June 26 at 7 p.m.

GROUP SALES INFORMATION

Groups of **10 or more** receive discounted tickets starting at **\$25** plus fees. Flexible payment options and concierge service are available to help coordinate your visit. Enhance your outing with pre- or post-show receptions, private talkbacks, or access to nearby dining partnerships. To learn more or to book your group, visit philatheatreco.org/groups.

ADDITIONAL SAVINGS PROGRAMS

PTC offers a variety of accessibly priced ticket options (subject to availability), including:

ACCESS Tickets: In partnership with Art-Reach, PA residents with a state-issued ACCESS or EBT card are eligible for \$2 tickets.

Rush Tickets: \$20

Industry Rate: \$25 for members of the Philadelphia arts and theatre community

Playwrights Welcome: In partnership with the Dramatists Guild of America (DGA), PTC provides complimentary tickets to professional playwrights on the day of the performance.

Major support for Philadelphia Theatre Company's 2024-25 season is provided by The Suzanne F. Roberts Cultural Development Fund, David & Nancy Colman, Glenn Gundersen, Sally Katz, Daryl & Ellen Morey, and Center City Film & Video.

A detailed lineup of upcoming productions, community programs, educational offerings, sponsorship opportunities, and Suzanne Roberts Theatre rental information is available at www.philatheatreco.org. Follow PTC on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to stay connected.

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

ADAM CHANLER-BERAT

PTC: Debut. Broadway: *Next to Normal* (original cast); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (original cast); *Amélie* (original cast); *Saint Joan* (revival). Off-Broadway: *The Jonathan Larson Project*; *I Can Get It for You Wholesale*; *Assassins*; *The Fortress of Solitude* (Lortel Award nomination); *Rent*; *Fly by Night*; *How to Load a Musket*; *Nantucket Sleigh Ride*; *Zorba*; *Titanic*. Regional: *A New Brain*, Barrington Stage Company; *Sunday in the Park with George*, Huntington Theatre Company; *The Year to Come*, La Jolla Playhouse. Film: *Delivery Man*. TV: *Gossip Girl* (HBO Max); *Veep*; *Elementary*; *The Good Wife*; *Doubt*; *The Code*; *NCIS: New Orleans*; *Soundtrack*.

JORDAN DOBSON

PTC: *Night Side Songs*. Broadway: *Bad Cinderella* (Prince Sebastian, OBC); *Hadestown* (Orpheus); *A Beautiful Noise* (Shilo, OBC); *West Side Story* (Tony, dir. Ivo van Hove). Tour: *Rent* (Angel), Japan Tour. Regional: *Hair*, Signature Theatre and Two River Theater; *Austen's Pride*, *Into the Woods*, ACT of Connecticut; *The Wanderer*, Paper Mill Playhouse; *Cabaret*, *Gypsy*, Arden Theatre Company; *The Color Purple*, Theatre Horizon. Film: *Maestro* (William), dir. Bradley Cooper; *Closing Night* (Jericho). More: @jordandobson_.

SARAH GLIKO

PTC: *A Small Fire*; *The Bridges of Madison County* (Barrymore Award, Outstanding Lead Performance). Regional: *Archduke*, *The Comeuppance* (Washington Post #1 Play of 2024), *Eternal Life Part 1* (Barrymore Award, Outstanding Supporting Performance), *KISS*, *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Drama League Award nomination), *Constellations*, *The Hard Problem*, The Wilma Theater; *Run Bambi Run*, Milwaukee Repertory Theater; *The Tempest*, *Sense & Sensibility*, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival; *Mountain Home Christmas*, Greenbrier Valley Theatre; *A Christmas Carol*, Delaware Theatre Company; *The Secret Garden*, *Parade*, Arden Theatre Company; *The Arsonists*, Azuka Theatre; *Pumpgirl*, Inis Nua Theatre. International: *Untitled Project #213*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Career Awards: Independence Foundation Fellowship (2019). Affiliations: Member, The Wilma Theater HotHouse Acting Company.

NADINA HASSAN

PTC: Debut. Tour: *Mean Girls* (Regina George, 1st National Tour). Off-Broadway: *We Live in Cairo* (Layla, Lucille Lortel Award nominee). Regional: *West Side Story* (Maria), New London Barn Playhouse; *Tick, Tick...Boom!* (Susan), *Be More Chill* (Brooke), Playhouse Square. Concert: *Lyrics and Lyricists – Howard Ashman*, 92NY. Film: *Spinning*; *Voice Toy*; *Satellite*. Audio: *Timon of Athens* (Poet, Lucretia), Play On Podcasts. Education: B.M., Baldwin Wallace University. More: @nadinahassan |nadinahassan.com.

JOSH TOTORA

PTC: Debut. Regional: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Man of La Mancha*, Delaware Theatre Company; *Once*, Arden Theatre Company; *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, Walnut Street Theatre; *He Who Gets Slapped* (Barrymore Award, Outstanding Original Music); *Sleeping Beauty*; *Cinderella* (musical pantos), People's Light & Theatre Company. Upcoming: *Wishing to Grow Up Brightly* (Music and Lyrics), Theatre Horizon, Nov. 2025. Affiliations: Founding member, No Duds Improv, NYC. More: joshtotora.com.

LEXI THAMMAVONG

PTC: Debut. Regional: *This Is the Week That Is*, 1812 Productions; *Head Over Heels* (Pamela), *Rocky Horror Tribute Show* (Rocky), Theatre Horizon; *The Drag* (Marion/Winnie/Inspector), EgoPo Classic Theater; *Meeting Murasaki Shikibu* (Bookstore Manager), Tiny Dynamite; *Rent* (Mimi), The Media Theatre; *The Tempest* (Ariel), *Julius Caesar* (Portia/Octavius), Delaware Shakespeare; *Jane Eyre* (Helen/Jane 3/Diana), Philadelphia Artists' Collective; *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Lucetta), Shakespeare in Clark Park.

ROB TUCKER

PTC: Debut. Regional: *Sweeney Todd*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *King Lear*, Utah Shakespeare Festival;

...*Deaths of Queens*, EgoPo Classic Theater; *Twelfth Night*, Shakespeare in Clark Park; *Big Red Sun*, *Field Hockey Hot*, 11th Hour Theatre Company; *This Is the Week That Is*, 1812 Productions; *Siluetas*, Power Street Theatre; *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Actors Theatre of Louisville; *The Light Princess*, *Sweeney Todd*, Arden Theatre Company; *A New Brain*, Theatre Horizon; *I Left My Heart...*, Milwaukee Repertory Theater; *Anyone Can Whistle*, Prince Theater; *Margaret Garner*, Opera Philadelphia. London: *Drag Divas* (West End); *The Winter's Tale*; *Britannicus*. Film: *The Blues Lover*; RTO. TV: *Terminally Chill*; *The Adjuster*. Education/Training: B.F.A., University of the Arts; M.A., Royal Central School of Speech and Drama (London).

AMY WARREN

PTC: Debut. Broadway: *August: Osage County* (Karen Weston); *Act One* (Dorothy Parker & others); *Sing Street* (Penny). Off-Broadway: *The Counter*; *The Gabriel Plays* (Joyce Gabriel), The Public Theater; *Schlemiel the First*; *Melancholy Play: A Chamber Musical*; *Adding Machine: A Musical* (Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Lortel nominations, Best Featured Actress in a Musical). Chicago: *Baudelaire in a Box: Elevation and Closed Casket*; *Pinochet: A Carnival*; *Anastasia*, Theater Oobleck; numerous roles at Steppenwolf and Goodman. Film/TV: *The Friend*, *Armageddon Time*, *Mistress America*, *Gravity*, *The Good Wife*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Law & Order*. Music: Performances and recordings with Tallulah, Aluminum Group, Amalea Tshilds, Via Tania, and Marvin Tate.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

TAIBI MAGAR

Director

Co-Artistic Director, Philadelphia Theatre Company. Recent credits include: *We Live in Cairo*, A.R.T. (world premiere, New York Theatre Workshop); *The Half-God of Rainfall*, New York Theatre Workshop/A.R.T.; *Macbeth in Stride* (co-directed with Tyler Dobrowsky), Shakespeare Theatre Company, A.R.T., Yale Rep, PTC, BAM; *Help*, The Shed; *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*, Signature Theatre/A.R.T. (Lortel Award, Best Revival); *Capsule*, The Public/Under the Radar; *Is God Is*, Soho Rep (Obie Award); *Underground Railroad Game*, Ars Nova (Obie Award). Regional: CTG, Woolly Mammoth, Guthrie, Seattle Rep. International: Hamburg Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Malthouse (Melbourne), Soho Theatre (London). Education: MFA, Brown University.

TYLER DOBROWSKY

Director

Co-Artistic Director, Philadelphia Theatre Company. Directing credits include: *Macbeth in Stride* by Whitney White (co-directed with Taibi Magar), Shakespeare Theatre Company, Yale Repertory Theatre, A.R.T., PTC, and BAM; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Breeches* (world premiere), and *Love Alone* (world premiere), Trinity Repertory Company; *The Big Meal*, *Morality Play* (world premiere), The Gamm Theatre; *Capsule*, The Public Theater/Under the Radar. Former Associate Artistic Director and Director of New Play Development at Trinity Rep. Teaching: BU, Brown, NYU, Rhode Island College, and currently, Penn.

KATIE SPELMAN*Choreographer*

PTC: Debut. Broadway: *The Notebook* (Choreographer); *Moulin Rouge!* (Associate Choreographer); *Amélie* (Associate Choreographer); *American Psycho* (Associate Choreographer); *Once* (Associate Choreographer). Regional: *Great Comet*, Writers Theatre; *Waitress*, Paramount Theatre; *The Music Man*, Marriott Theatre; *Cabaret*, Barrington Stage Company; *An American Tail*, Children's Theatre Company; *Once*, Writers Theatre; *Swearing in English*, Ars Nova; *AD 16*, Olney Theatre Center (Helen Hayes Award for Best Choreography); *The Beautiful Game*, Tokyo; *The Who's Tommy*, Denver Center for the Performing Arts; *Oklahoma!*, Goodspeed Musicals. Other: Collaborations with Lookingglass Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Camerata Bern, Court Theatre, The Hypocrites, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Timeline Theatre, and Northwestern University.

CHRISTOPHER ASH*Scenic Designer*

PTC: *Small Ball* (and six previous productions). Broadway: *New York, New York*; *Sunday in the Park with George*; *Saint Joan*. Opera: The Metropolitan Opera; Paris Opera; La Monnaie; Lausanne; Lyric Opera of Chicago; Canadian Opera; Houston Grand Opera. Dance: Arizona Ballet; Miami City Ballet; Houston Ballet; Municipal de Santiago; Atlanta Ballet; Northern Ballet; Ballet Hispánico; River North Chicago Dance. Regional: Guthrie Theater; Wilma Theater; Yale Repertory Theatre. International: Work presented in 19 countries. Awards: 17 career honors. Education/Training: M.F.A., Yale School of Drama.

THOM WEAVER*Lighting Designer*

PTC: *The Duat*; *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*; *4,000 Miles*; *Exit Strategy*; *Venus in Fur*; *Disgraced*; *Hand to God*. Off-Broadway: *Sandra*, Vineyard Theatre; *The Total Bent*, The Public Theater; *Kingdom Come*, Roundabout; *Exit Strategy*, Primary Stages; *King Hedley II*, *How I Learned What I Learned*, *The Liquid Plain*, Signature Theatre Company. Regional: Alley Theatre; Huntington; Arden; Wilma (Associate Artist); Alliance; Milwaukee Rep; Chicago Shakespeare; Cleveland Play House; Yale Rep; Williamstown; Spoleto Festival USA. Other: Designs with Pilobolus. Awards: Helen Hayes Award, two Jeff Awards, six Barrymore Awards, two AUDELCO Awards. Education/Training: Carnegie Mellon University; Yale School of Drama.

LIZ FORRESTER*Stage Manager*

PTC: Debut. Regional: *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Delaware Theatre Company; *Man of La Mancha*, Delaware Theatre Company; *A Few Good Men*, Bristol Riverside Theatre; *An Evening with Groucho*, Walnut Street Theatre; *Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Gretna Theatre; *Jekyll & Hyde* (in concert), Gretna Theatre. Education/Training: Millersville University.

CHLOE KINCADE*Assistant Stage Manager*

PTC: Debut. Regional: *POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him*

Alive (Assistant Stage Manager), Arden Theatre Company; *Hilma*, *The Good Person of Setzuan*, *My Mama and the Full-Scale Invasion*, *Fat Ham*, *Twelfth Night*, *Eternal Life Part 1*, *KISS* (Assistant Stage Manager), The Wilma Theater. More: @chloe.l.k

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA THEATRE COMPANY

Philadelphia Theatre Company (PTC) is a vital civic institution dedicated to the creation of extraordinary theatrical experiences that reflect the essential issues and ideas of our time and that foster connection, understanding, and transformation. PTC engages and strengthens our community through exceptional productions of new and contemporary plays and musicals, inspiring education programs, and mutually beneficial civic partnerships. PTC develops exciting new work that resonates locally and nationally and upholds a deep commitment to be a fully inclusive, welcoming home for Philadelphia's artists, audiences, and people. Learn more at www.philatheatreco.org.

###