

MEDIA ALERT: Friday, August 29, 2008
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PRIDE & PREJUDICE PICKS THREE FINALISTS

Local performers will be flown to NYC auditions next week

“An outstanding opportunity,” says one finalist

Rochester, NY – Producers of *Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, the New Musical* chose three Rochester singer/actresses after Thursday’s auditions that they will fly to NYC on Thursday, September 4 to audition for the Broadway-bound musical’s one-night-only event on October 21 at Eastman Theatre: Gabriella Pérez, Sara Alethea Noble and Amanda Ladwig.

Associate Director Michael McGoff, Producer Lori Bajorek and Co-writer Lindsay Warren Baker saw 35 candidates by appointment, 15 of which were called back at 4 p.m. The three women chosen will not only audition for Broadway casting agent Tara Rubin and the show’s Tony-nominated Director Mark Lamos, but they are being considered for actual roles and not just ensemble parts as originally stated.

“We were impressed with the caliber of professional talent here,” says McGoff, who flew in from New York City on Wednesday night to attend the auditions. “As a result, Gabriella will be considered for Mary Bennet, Sara for Lydia Bennet and Amanda for the role of Charlotte Lucas.”

16-year old Gabriella Pérez, a junior at Allendale Columbia, is already a seasoned local performer who played Dorothy in Rochester Children’s Theatre’s *Wizard of Oz* (2008), and several roles in Geva Theatre Center’s *A Christmas Carol* (2004 & 2006). She studies voice with Cara D’Emanuele.

Sara Alethea Noble is a 2004 Brighton High School grad who just graduated from Westminster Choir College of Rider University with a degree in Voice Performance, and will receive a BA in Music from the school this fall. In Rochester, she often performed with Blackfriars Theatre.

Amanda Ladwig was a regular on the NYC audition scene 15 years ago. Following the births of her two children, Amanda has been getting back into local theatre and played the lead (Narrator) in Rochester Children’s Theatre’s *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in August.

“This is an absolutely outstanding opportunity for Rochester performers,” she exclaims.

“Not only will these performers be seen by some of the most influential people on Broadway, but if cast, they’ll be working with a professional NYC cast, our Broadway team and a 17-piece orchestra made up of RPO members,” exclaims Bajorek. “I am thrilled to be able to involve our wonderful local talent in this way, and who knows? It could lead them all the way to Broadway!”

Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, the New Musical is targeting a November, 2009 Broadway opening, and has attracted an enviable list of Broadway veterans to its production team. The book, music and lyrics were written Rochester’s own Lindsay Warren Baker and Amanda Jacobs. Please visit www.prideandprejudicebroadway.com for complete information.

Tickets to the one-night-only event at Eastman Theatre on October 21 at 7:30 p.m. are \$35, \$45 and \$75 (includes a post-performance reception with performers at Max of Eastman Place). They are available at the Ticketmaster Box Office at 875 East Main Street (Auditorium Theatre), by calling 585-232-1900, or online at www.tickemaster.com.

Media please note: photographs of all three finalists are available electronically.

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