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Patel Conservatory presents Florida premiere of *NOR•MAL, the Musical*

Tampa, Fla. – Eating disorders are the subject of the Patel Conservatory Youth Theater’s (PCYT) latest project, the Florida premiere of the provocative rock musical, *NOR•MAL, the Musical*, presented June 29 and 30 in the Shimberg Playhouse at the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts.

NOR•MAL, the Musical connects to the heart of every dysfunctional family who believes that there is such a thing as a functional family. It tells the story of a teenager struggling with an eating disorder and her family’s quest to discover what it is to be “normal.” Each performance will be followed by an audience discussion with a panel of medical professionals.

“Everyone who has grown up in America will connect with the members of this family and their plight to attain the elusive ranks of normal,” said Ami Sallee, Patel Conservatory theater department chair and director for *NOR•MAL, the Musical*.

NOR•MAL, the Musical is based on the experiences of Yvonne Adrian, whose daughter suffered from an eating disorder. Lyrics are by Cheryl Stern and music is by Tom Kochan. Patel Conservatory students, who are high school and college age, will perform the adaptation of *NOR•MAL, the Musical* developed specifically for schools by Robyn Hussa and Eric R. Christiansen. Hussa co-founded the Drama Desk Obie award-winning Transport Group Theatre Company in 2001 and originally produced *NOR•MAL, the Musical* in 2005.

Music students enrolled in the Patel Conservatory’s Pit Orchestra camp for those in grades seven through college will perform the music - on piano, cello, bari sax, clarinet, guitar, bass and drums - in the production. To audition for *NOR•MAL, the Musical* or the Pit Orchestra camp, call 813.222.1002 or visit www.patelconservatory.org.

In the 2005 review, the *New York Post* wrote that *NOR•MAL, the Musical* “shows that any subject, if handled right, is grist for the musical mill.” *Variety* wrote, “Let’s wrap this up and send it out to schools where it can do the most good.”

Assistant director for *NOR•MAL, the Musical* is Matthew Belopavlovich, music director is Deborah Lynch and choreographer is Shana Perkins.

NOR•MAL, the Musical will run Friday, June 29 at 4 and 7 p.m. and Saturday, June 30, at 2 and 7 p.m. Regularly priced tickets, now through June 28, start at \$8. Beginning June 29, regularly priced tickets start at \$12.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 813.229.STAR (7827) or 800.955.1045 outside Tampa Bay, in person at the Straz Center Ticket Office or online at www.strazcenter.org.

As part of the non-profit Straz Center, the Patel Conservatory offers camps and classes for children and adults of all experience levels in all kinds of dance, music and theater. For more information about the Patel Conservatory, visit www.patelconservatory.org or call 813.222.1002.

Events, days, dates, times and prices are subject to change without notice.

The David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts and its programs are funded in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts; the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners; the Tourist Development Council/Hillsborough County; and the City of Tampa.
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