



MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS

Adapted from the children's book by Robert McCloskey

Adapted for the stage by Sandra Eskin and Michael J. Bobbitt

Music and lyrics by William Yanesh

Virtual Workshop

Directed by Emily Ranii

Music Directed by Dan Rodriguez

Choreographed by Kira Troilo

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Date: December 5th, 2020 @ 4pm

Email or call for press access link, images, pre-production interviews, and more information.

WHAT:

Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University (WFT@BU) in partnership with Boston University's School of Theatre announces their virtual workshop of the new musical, *Make Way for Ducklings*. From the children's book by Robert McCloskey, adapted for the stage by Sandra Eskin and Michael J. Bobbitt (*Blueberries for Sal*), with music and lyrics by William Yanesh (*Caps for Sale; Blueberries for Sal*). Co-Commissioned by Adventure Theatre MTC in Glen Echo, Maryland (Chil Kong, Artistic Director & Leon Seemann, Managing Director) and Wheelock Family Theatre in Boston, Massachusetts (Emily Ranii, Artistic Director & Nick Vargas, Associate Artistic/Education Director) in 2020. Directed by Emily Ranii, Music Directed by Dan Rodriguez, and Choreographed by Kira Troilo.

Recommended for all ages.

ABOUT:

Boston's most beloved story comes to life on the virtual stage in its workshop this fall at Wheelock Family Theatre. Every Bostonian, young and old, will immediately be transcended to the days of their youth with the Mallard duck family, as this classic tale leaps off the stage and back into their hearts. This utterly sweet tale follows the journey of the Mallard duck family searching for their forever home in the heart of Boston, MA. While every new location brings another obstacle, the Mallard family never loses hope on their journey. From the Boston Public Garden to the Charles River, the ducklings brave the unknown elements with panache and a sense of humor.

"Now that I am an adjacent Bostonian", says *Make Way for Ducklings* co-adaptor and New Repertory Theatre Artistic Director, Michael Bobbitt, "my heart is flipping because I get to walk in the park that inspired McCloskey's popular book. Bringing this book to life is profoundly exciting. I am so thrilled to be partnering with Wheelock Family Theatre, Adventure Theatre, Bill, Sandy and all the artists involved. Sandy, Bill and I adapted *Blueberries for Sal*, another McCloskey favorite, always with our eye on *Ducklings*. What I truly love about this story is watching this family overcome struggles and find peace and happiness. It's a charming story of how collaboration can yield terrific results."

At a time when the passion of our youth has kept our country moving, Wheelock Family Theatre is proud to present a tale that highlights the bravery and kindness of the young in their search for

a new home. While we are all searching for new areas to call home during this uncertain time, the Mallard family reminds us that each new journey brings opportunity for courage and positive change.

“This new musical features one bop after another! And Michael and Sandy have really unlocked the heart of the original book and leaned into its timeless message: ‘Be Kind,’ says Director Emily Ranii. “The story reminds us to be kind to each other, to animals, and to nature. ‘Home’ is a big word that encompasses much more than our families, it’s our entire city.”

Director Emily Ranii, Music Director Dan Rodriguez, and Choreographer Kira Troilo team up with a cast and production team from Boston University’s School of Theatre, including Scenic Designer James F. Rotondo III, who designed last season’s production of *Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka*.

WHEN:

December 5th, 2020 @ 4pm

WHERE:

Virtual Wheelock Family Theatre.

<https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org/ducklings-workshop-2020/>

TICKETS:

Tickets are FREE for this production. Patrons must reserve their ticket.

- Online at wheelockfamilytheatre.org
- By phone at (617) 353 - 3001

ACCESSIBILITY:

Open Captioning will be provided. Questions regarding access? Please contact Audience Services Manager, Jamie Aznive at jaznive@bu.edu.

CAST:

WFT @ BU’s cast for *Make Way for Ducklings* includes Boston University College of Fine Arts students, Kagan Cole (Pack), Liana Giangliulio (Jack), Neil Kelly (Quack), Julian Manjerico (The Michael), Arinze Okwuosah (Mr. Mallard), Jackie Romankow (Mrs. Mallard), Ken Yotsukura (Lack).

CREATIVE TEAM:

WFT @ BU’s creative team for *Make Way for Ducklings* includes, Anna Brevetti (Lighting Designer), Sean Doyle (Sound Designer), Zoe Garrick (Production Manager), Jonas Hayes (Video Editor), Sierra Hoss (Assistant Stage Manager), Kevin Hutchins (Costume Designer),

Angelene Kim (Video Editor), Natalie Main (Stage Manager), Shamus Hunter McCarty (Assistant Director), Emily Ranii (Director), Dan Rodrigez (Music Director), James F Rotondo III (Scenic Designer), Kira Troilo (Choreographer).

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Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University is the greater Boston area's leading professional theatre offering a shared experience for the entire family. Founded in 1981, WFT@BU's long-standing commitment to equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion has garnered recognition and awards at the local and national level. WFT@BU's productions have served more than a half-million audience members and WFT@BU's education programs have provided hands-on training to tens of thousands of students across the state of Massachusetts. On June 1, 2018, Wheelock Family Theatre became a program of Boston University.

Founded in 1839, **Boston University** is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. With more than 33,000 students, it is the fourth-largest independent university in the United States. BU consists of 17 schools and colleges, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University's research and teaching mission. In 2012, BU joined the Association of American Universities (AAU), a consortium of 62 leading research universities in the United States and Canada.