



**WHEELOCK FAMILY THEATRE**  
***MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS THE MUSICAL***  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**Press Release**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Press Weekend: Saturday, February 18th, 2022 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, February 19th, 2022 at 2:00 PM**

**Email or call Jenna Corcoran for press tickets, images, pre-production interviews, and more information.**

### WHAT:

Wheelock Family Theatre at Boston University (WFT@BU) proudly announces the World Premiere, in partnership with Adventure Theatre MTC of [\*Make Way for Ducklings, the Musical!\*](#)

### ABOUT:

Boston's most beloved story comes to life for the first time this winter in a musical adaptation of Robert McCloskey's book *Make Way for Ducklings*. Fans will be delighted by the playfulness of this story, as well as its tremendous ode to Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their Ducklings bring us on a journey of new beginnings through a series of Boston city landmarks – Boston Public Garden, Beacon Hill including the State House and Louisburg Square, Longfellow Bridge, Charles River, and finally the ducklings make their way down Mt. Vernon St., Charles St., and Beacon St. back to the Boston Public Garden. Each seemingly small corner provides new adventures and challenges. Through song and dance, the ducklings bring us on their journey of self discovery, family and the meaning of “home”.

“As we were all increasingly at home during the pandemic, the question of ‘what makes a home’ took on new meanings. Mr. and Mrs. Mallard’s quest for a forever home and the community that surrounds it resonated all the more”, says Director Emily Ranii and Artistic Director of Wheelock Family Theatre. Audiences will be enveloped by their love for their community in this triumphant and heartfelt tale.

Ranii leapt at the chance for WFT@BU to be part of the adaptation of this quintessential Boston show – “It’s a tour of the city we call “home”, she says. Patrons from all over will fall for the endearing Mallard family, and Boston-based fans especially will hold a special connection to the story they hold so near and dear. “Even though this work started before I moved to the Boston area, so much of the play has been enhanced by my immersion into the Boston Community”, says Co-writer and co-creator, Michael J. Bobbitt.

Theater fans and Bostonians alike will enjoy this production, featuring WFT@BU familiar faces like Jared Troilo and Ricardo Holguin, newcomers and a wonderful youth ensemble. “The story builds on the tropes of classic and golden age musical comedy, but touches on themes that everyone can relate to”, says Bobbitt. At WFT@BU, intergenerational productions continue to soar! Bobbitt states, “My little secret when writing children's plays is that I truly try to entertain the adults as much, if not more than the kids. I think it's a toe tapping, sing-along, laugh out loud, hug your children kinda show.”

**SYNOPSIS:**

Never before seen on a New England stage, this World Premiere in partnership with Adventure Theatre will soar into the hearts of every Bostonian. Co-commissioned by Wheelock Family Theatre and Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo, Maryland and adapted for the stage by Michael J. Bobbitt, Sandra Eskin, and William Yanesh, this new musical adaptation of Robert McCloskey's *Make Way for Ducklings* follows the Mallard family from one Boston historic landmark to another on their quest to find the perfect home before their ducklings are born. When the ducklings begin to explore the world around them, the challenges of parenthood in the busy Boston environment create a fun bit of family drama. A classic story for all ages, this world premiere musical celebrates family, Boston, children and the beings who make an unfamiliar place a home. Directed by WFT@BU Artistic Director Emily Ranii, Music Directed by Jon Goldberg, and Choreographed by Joy Clark. "The songs are one bop after another and Boston audiences will particularly get a kick out of all of the local references!" says Director, Emily Ranii.

**WHERE:**

Wheelock Family Theatre. <https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org/>  
180 Riverway, Boston MA 02215

**TICKETS:**

Single ticket prices range from \$24-48

- By phone at (617) 353-3001
- Online at [wheelockfamilytheatre.org](https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org)
- At our box office at 180 Riverway, Boston, MA 02215

Discounts are available for groups and students. For a full list of discounts, please visit:  
<https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org/discounts-promotions/>

**CAST:**

WFT @ BU's production of *Make Way for Ducklings, the Musical* adult ensemble features, Becky Bass\* (Mrs. Mallard), Aaron Graham (Ensemble/Quack/*Understudy* Michael), Ricardo Holguin\* (Officer Michael/Mick/Captain Mike/Bostonian), Janis Hudson (*Understudy* Mrs. Mallard), Lisa Kate Joyce (Ensemble/Nack), Brad Reinking (*Understudy* Mr. Mallard/Ensemble), Jared Troilo\* (Mr. Mallard) and children's ensemble at designated performances, Adeline DeFeo (Mack), Maia Ettinger (Pack), Erin Grimm (Ouack), Charlie Hertz (*Understudy* Kack/Mack), Anthony Hu (Jack), Leah Jackson (Mack), Sadie Johnson (Kack), Echo Kaufman (Lack), Sullivan McStravick (Pack), Ash Quasney-Sandler (Jack), Matthew Salgado (Kack), Camryn Samuels (Lack), Bonnie Shao (Quack).

\*indicates a member of Actors Equity Association

**CREATIVE TEAM:**

WFT @ BU's creative and production team for *Make Way for Ducklings, the Musical* includes, Joy Clark (Choreographer), Steven Doucette (Props Designer), Kathleen Doyle (Costume Designer), Jon Goldberg (Music Director), Lindsay Hoisington (Costume Coordinator), Kelly Kim (Artistic Sign Language/ASL Coach), Gg Martel (Production Manager), Stephen J. Petrilli (Lighting Designer), Emily Ranii (Director), Mehdi Raoufi (Sound Designer), James Rotondo III (Scenic Designer) and Lawrence Ware (Lead Electrician).

**ACCESSIBILITY:**

Open Captioning provided at all events.

**Accessibility Performance Dates:** March 5th, 2023 at 2:00 PM and March 11th, 2022 at 2:00 PM. Questions regarding access? Please contact Audience Services Manager Jamie Aznive at [jaznive@bu.edu](mailto:jaznive@bu.edu).

*Make Way for Ducklings* © 1941 Robert McCloskey. Published by Penguin Books. The producers gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and permission of Jane and Sarah McCloskey in making this production possible.

Wheelock Family Theater will continue to follow Covid-19 guidelines set by the City of Boston and Boston University surrounding the health and safety of our staff, artists and audiences. Performers will be vaccine compliant, un-masked, and will abide by regulations set by the City of Boston, Boston University, and Actor's Equity Association. Any participant with symptoms that could be related to COVID-19 should not engage in group activities and should seek medical advice. For more updated information, please visit: <https://www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org/covid-19-update/>

**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.