

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[PRESS ROOM](#)

## **NEW CONSERVATORY THEATRE CENTER ANNOUNCES MELODIOUS 40TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN THE FORM OF A MUSICAL REVUE, *ENCORE***

San Francisco, CA (April 15, 2022) – In May, **New Conservatory Theatre Center** closes out their triumphant 40th Anniversary season with *Encore*. Featuring a cast of Bay Area favorites, this musical medley travels through NCTC’s 40 years of living out loud - both on and off stage.

Celebrate NCTC’s milestone 40th birthday with a magically melodious performance of iconic numbers from a songbook of over 50 musical productions that have lit up our stage. Featuring hit songs from blockbuster mega-musicals and hidden gems from indie darlings, *Encore* is sure to be the birthday party of the season.

Playing May 13 – June 12, 2022, *Encore*’s Opening Night is **Saturday, May 21** at 8pm. Tickets are \$25–65 and are available at [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org), by emailing [boxoffice@nctcsf.org](mailto:boxoffice@nctcsf.org), or by calling (415) 861-8972. Pay-what-you-wish tickets are available for preview performances, **May 13 - 20**, and can be reserved starting one week before the first performance through the box office.

Audiences can enjoy these special events during the run of the show:

- Low-cost Previews: Friday, May 13 - Friday, May 20, 2022
- Opening Night will take place on **Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 8pm**
- Onstage Insight, Post-Show Discussion featuring the cast, and moderated by the director will take place after the performance on **Sunday, May 29 at 2pm**.
- Additional special events to be announced!

Critics are singing the praises of NCTC:

**“Every performance—singing, acting, puppetry, dancing—excels. Great talent lives at NCTC”** raves *Theatrius*.

**“Retreat to a safe place where you can laugh ... For LGBT people (and our allies), one of those places is New Conservatory Theatre Center”** proclaims *Talkin' Broadway*.

**Curator Ed Decker** is the Founding Artistic Director of New Conservatory Theatre Center which opened its doors in 1981. NCTC is a San Francisco cornerstone institution leading in the fields of arts education as well as Queer and Allied theatre production. A graduate of the SFSU Theatre Department, he is extremely

honored to continue his work with a wide array of artisans, administrators, activists, as well as his husband and writing partner Robert Leone with whom he collaborated on the world premiere of *Rights of Passage* – a love story set against the backdrop of the struggle for international human rights.

**Director Dennis Lickteig** returns to NCTC after directing their productions of *Still at Risk*, *Sordid Lives*, *Avenue Q*, *The Nance*, *American Dream*, *The Lisbon Traviata*, *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*, *The Story of My Life*, *The Busy World is Hushed*, *Anita Bryant Died for Your Sins*, *The Sugar Witch*, *Act A Lady*, *Thrill Me*, *Farm Boys*, *Theatre District* and *Harvey Milk –The Musical*. Other recent projects include: *Company* (Altarena Players), *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Parade* and *The Heiress* for Palo Alto Players, *The Story of My Life* (Contra Costa Civic), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *The King and I* (Broadway By the Bay), *Forum*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Anything Goes* (CCMT), *The Full Monty*, *A Little Night Music*, *Closer Than Ever*, *Crimes of the Heart* (Hillbarn Theater), *Hello, Dolly!* and *The King and I* (Diablo Theatre Company), *Anyone Can Whistle*, *All My Sons*, and *Do I Hear a Waltz?* (Masquers Playhouse), *A Little Nighth Music* and *Carousel* (Lamplighter’s Music Theatre) and *The Boys from Syracuse* and *Redhead* (42nd Street Moon).

**Musical Director Joe Wicht** is a San Francisco-based composer and arranger whose focus is cabaret and chamber musicals. For NCTC, he appeared in the first production of Howard Crabtree’s *When Pigs Fly* in 2003, then served as Musical Director for the revival production in 2019. For Feinstein’s, Wicht teamed up with Allen Sawyer to create concert versions of *Hair*, *Mame*, and *Hello, Dolly!* Wicht has worked extensively with local cabaret performer Katya Smirnoff-Skyy, and has served as MD for local performers Darlene Popovic, Johnny Orenberg, Katrina McGraw, and Tom Reardon. As a composer, Wicht collaborates with lyricist Scott Hayes on specialty cabaret numbers. Wicht’s song cycle, *Trinity*, features over 75 songs, several of which were featured in concert at St. Ignatius in May, 2021. As best as he can recollect, Wicht has been involved with 9 musicals at NCTC, including one where he was dressed as a banana. He has been a house pianist at Martuni’s for the past 13 years, an honorary grand marshall at SF Pride, was sainted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in 2006, and received a *Bay Area Reporter* Bestie Award for Best LGBT Musician in 2018.

The cast of *Encore* includes **Jacqueline De Muro**, **McKay Elwood**, **William Giammona**, **Catalina Kumiski**, and **Anthony Rollins-Mullens**. The live band will feature **Tim Vaughan** on drums and **Joe Wicht** on piano. The creative team includes technical direction by **Carlos Aceves**, production management & casting coordination by **Stephanie Desnoyers**, projection design by **Isaac Fine**, costume design by **Jorge R. Hernández**, choreography by **Christina Lazo**, set design by **Kuo-Hao Lo**, stage management by **Emilio Racinez**, lighting design by **Weili Shi**, sound design by **Kalon Thibodeaux**, and props design by **Daniel Yelen**.

**New Conservatory Theatre Center** has been San Francisco’s premier LGBTQ+ and Allied performing arts institution and **progressive arts education conservatory** since 1981. NCTC is renowned for its diverse range of **innovative, high-quality productions**, touring productions and **shows for young audiences**; its foundational anti-bullying work with youth and educators through **YouthAware**; and its commitment to developing **new plays** to continue expanding the canon of queer and allied dramatic work.

Supported in part by **The Bernard Osher Foundation**, **Horizons Foundation**, **Grants for the Arts**, and the generosity of NCTC’s individual donors.

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## **Encore**

### FACT SHEET

#### **WHO:**

Curated by **Ed Decker** (*pronouns: he/him*), **Dennis Lickteig** (*pronouns: he/him*), and **Joe Wicht** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Directed by **Dennis Lickteig** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Musical direction & Arrangements by **Joe Wicht** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Choreographed by **Christina Lazo** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Technical Direction... **Carlos Aceves** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Production Management & Casting Coordination...**Stephanie Desnoyers** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Projection Design... **Isaac Fine** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Costume Design... **Jorge R. Hernández** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Set Design... **Kuo-Hao Lo** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Stage Management... **Emilio Racinez** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Lighting Design... **Weili Shi** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Sound Design... **Kalon Thibodeaux** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Props Design... **Daniel Yelen** (*pronouns: he/him*)

#### **BAND:**

Guitar... **Brendan Getzell** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Guitar... **Amy Meyers** (*pronouns: she/her*)

Drums... **Tim Vaughan** (*pronouns: he/him*)

Piano... **Joe Wicht** (*pronouns: he/him*)

#### **CAST:**

**Jacqueline De Muro** (*pronouns: she/her*)

**McKay Elwood** (*pronouns: he/him*)

**William Giammona** (*pronouns: he/him*)

**Catalina Kumiski** (*pronouns: she/her*)

**Anthony Rollins-Mullens\*** (*pronouns: he/him*)

*\* Appears courtesy of the Actors Equity Association.*

**WHAT:** *Encore*, A Cabaret Performance Celebrating 40 Years

**WHERE:** New Conservatory Theatre Center

Walker Theatre, 25 Van Ness Ave @ Market St, San Francisco, CA 94102

**WHEN:** May 13 - June 12, 2022

Wednesdays – Saturdays at 8pm, Sundays\* at 2pm

**Opening Night: Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 8pm**

*\*no performance on Sunday, May 22*

**Special Engagements:**

Audiences can enjoy these special events during the run of the show:

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**COST:** \$30-65

**LEARN MORE:** [www.nctcsf.org/21-22-Season/Encore](http://www.nctcsf.org/21-22-Season/Encore)

**TICKETS AND BOX OFFICE:** [415-861-8972](tel:415-861-8972), [boxoffice@nctcsf.org](mailto:boxoffice@nctcsf.org)