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FEATHERS FLY AND SECRETS SPILL IN THE FABULOUS AND FUN MUSICAL “DIVA DIARIES” COMING TO THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

FORT LAUDERDALE – The Broward Center for the Performing Arts and National Arts Institute present a celebration of friendship, family, and fabulous fun with the musical *Diva Diaries*, performed **Wednesday, January 6–Sunday, January 31** as part of the 2015–16 Abdo New River Room Theater Series at the Broward Center.

Diva Diaries tells the story of three dynamic drag queens on the verge of a nervous breakdown as they prepare for their final night on stage. Feathers fly as the divas spill secrets, dish it out, fall apart and come together.

Funny and touching, the musical follows Randee, Damsel and Cleareen who show up for their show only to learn the club where they've worked together for 25 years is closing. Six actors portray older and younger versions of the characters on their journey from disco to drag veterans.

Composer and lyricist John Mercurio has written an energetic pop score to accompany the eye-popping production numbers that evoke the '80s, '90s and 2000s. Mercurio is currently writing the music for the Broadway-bound production of *Green Acres*, based on the TV show. He is the recipient of the first annual ASCAP Cole Porter Award for Music and Lyrics. In 2012, his musical *Academy* had its world premiere at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre.

One of the show's creators is an expert on divas in drag. Co-author James O'Conner-Taylor, a.k.a. Jem Jender, was a member of the all-male troupe Les Ballets Trockadero De Monte Carlo and has appeared on fashion runways for famous designers and in music videos with Cyndi Lauper, L.L. Cool Jay and Madonna.

Diva Diaries, in a version that has since been revised, made its world premiere in 2003 at the Broward Center. Andrew Kato, who conceived, co-wrote and developed the original production, now serves as the producing artistic director and chief executive of the Maltz Jupiter Theater. National Arts Institute, which is co-producing the January presentation, is a non-profit organization based in South Florida with Karen Poindexter as the executive producer.

Starting one hour prior to the performance and during intermission, sumptuous sandwiches, salads, snacks and desserts are available for purchase with convenience walk-up service at the Café in the Abdo New River Room. A full cash bar is also available.

Diva Diaries is presented Wednesday, January 6–Sunday, January 31 with performances Wednesday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at

BrowardCenter.org or Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954-462-0222; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

AutoNation, Bank of America, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, Latam Airlines Group, MasterCard, Paramount Refreshment Solutions, Rick Case Automotive Group and *Sun Sentinel* are proud sponsors of the Broward Center.

All dates, programs and artists are subject to change.

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CALENDAR BRIEF: Described as *Mamma Mia!* meets *La Cage aux Folles*, ***Diva Diaries*** comes to the Abdo New River Room at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts from **January 6–31** telling the story of three dynamic drag queens, all on the verge of nervous breakdowns, as they prepare for their final night on stage. Feathers fly as the divas spill secrets, dish it out, fall apart and come together in a celebration of friendship, family and fabulous fun. The musical is presented by National Arts Institute and the Broward Center, and runs Wednesday, January 6–Sunday, January 31 with performances Wednesday–Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$45. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at BrowardCenter.org or Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954-462-0222; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

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About The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is one of America's premier performing arts venues. Presenting more than 700 performances each year to more than 700,000 patrons, the Center showcases a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events, and offers one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, serving more than 150,000 students annually. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Consortium is a cultural partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera, Fort Lauderdale History Center and the Historic Stranahan House Museum. It is supported by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.