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Cutline: Shenise Nuñez as Esmeralda and Bobby Cassell as Quasimodo. Credit Patrick Fitzwater.

## **SLOW BURN THEATRE COMPANY OPENS NEW SEASON WITH “THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME”**

*The Southeastern premiere is the largest production in the Carbonell Award-winning company’s history*

**FORT LAUDERDALE** – The Carbonell Award-winning Slow Burn Theatre Company opens its new season at the Broward Center for the Performing arts with the largest production in its history as it presents ***The Hunchback of Notre Dame***, a new musical based on the novel by Victor Hugo with songs from the Disney film. The Southeastern premiere will be presented from **Thursday, October 20 to Sunday, November 6** in the Amaturio Theater.

“This is only the fourth production in the nation since the musical’s premiere and we are thrilled to have been entrusted with this epic and emotionally charged retelling of a classic love story, created by a composer and lyricist who each have been responsible for introducing new generations of fans to the American Musical Theater,” said Slow Burn Theatre Artist Director Patrick Fitzwater, who also serves as the production’s director and choreographer.

Composer Alan Menken (*The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Newsies, Aladdin*) and lyricist Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked, Godspell, Pippin*) collaborated with book writer Peter Parnell, to create a lushly scored, powerful rendition of the timeless tale of love, acceptance and what it means to be a hero.

Set in 15th century Paris, the musical tells the love story of the beautiful gypsy girl Esmeralda, the scorned bell-ringer Quasimodo and the dashing Captain Phoebus. While this show is based on the animated Disney film and includes many of the same songs, the plot and themes follow more closely to the original and significantly darker novel.

The cast features Bobby Cassell as Quasimodo, Shenise Nuñez as Esmeralda, Landon Summers as Phoebus, Matthew Korinko as Frollo and Trevor Whitaker as Clopin. Fitzwater has cast a top-notch ensemble of Dalia Aleman, Jinon Deeb, Cristina Flores, Steven Fuentes, Cameron Jordan, Josh Kolb, Rick Peña, Andrew Rodriguez-Triana, Stephanie Trull and Kyle Ashe Wilkinson.

The music's choral beauty will be powered by the award-winning Everglades Legacy Chamber Singers. The students from Everglades High School in Miramar who make up the majority of the 21-member mixed choir spent a portion of their summer vacation in an intensive rehearsal for the production.

The creative team behind the production's bold and dramatic theatrics is scenic designer Sean McClelland, costume designer Rick Peña, lighting designer Becky Montero, sound designer Rich Szczublewski and music director Caryl Fantel.

Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$47–\$60. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org) or [Ticketmaster.com](http://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.

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All dates, programs and artists are subject to change.

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**CALENDAR BRIEF:** Slow Burn Theatre begins its season with *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, a new musical based on the novel by Victor Hugo with songs from the Disney film. From the Oscar-winning team of Alan Menken (*The Little Mermaid*) and Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Godspell*) comes a lushly scored retelling of the epic story of love, acceptance, and what it means to be a hero. The Southeastern premiere will be presented from **Thursday, October 20 to Sunday, November 6** in the Amaturio Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$47–\$60. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org) or [Ticketmaster.com](http://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

One of America's premier performing arts venues, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts presents more than 700 performances each year to more than 700,000 patrons, showcasing a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events. Guest experiences at the Broward Center include the all-inclusive LATAM AIRLINES CLUB LEVEL, spectacular riverfront views for special events in the Huizenga Pavilion, waterfront dining at Marti's New River Bistro and innovative classes and workshops for all ages at the Rose Miniaci Arts Education Center. With one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, the Broward Center serves 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](http://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.