

## PRESS RELEASE

### GREENSBURG-BASED THEATER COMPANY CHOSEN TO DEBUT ITS ORIGINAL MUSICAL PLAY 'TINK' AT NEW YORK MUSICAL FESTIVAL

*Stage Right! Theater Company original production is one of 9 picked from hundreds worldwide for chance to 'woo' Broadway producers; Fundraising campaign launched to bring New York its best*

(PITTSBURGH, PA) March 14, 2016 – Stage Right! Theatre Company, a professional theatre company and school for the performing arts, has been selected by The [New York Musical Festival](#) to debut its original production, Tink, a heartwarming musical that tells the untold story of the island of Neverland before Pan. It's one of only nine shows and the only show in Pennsylvania selected from among hundreds of submissions to the festival's Next Link Project, which awards production slots to new shows worldwide. Written by Stage Right! artistic director Anthony Marino, Tink will be seen in New York by thousands of theatregoers this July, and has the chance of connecting with a Broadway producer.

"Tink was one of those productions where the audience was totally with you and neither of you want it to end. That's when you know you have something special," said Marino. "This is more than a dream come true and I'm so proud of the talented people based in the Pittsburgh region who have helped to make Tink come to life."

The theatre company is working to raise at least \$75,000 needed in order to stage the original production in New York – which includes production costs, top-of-the-line actors and more. [Stage Right!](#) has started a [Kickstarter](#) campaign to help raise the money.

"The Next Link Project is the foundation of the New York Musical Festival," said Rachel Sussman, the Festival's director of programming and artist services. "The submission process this year was extremely competitive and we are deeply proud of the artists and work we have selected to participate. The 2016 Next Link Projects are bold, dynamic, and thematically relevant."

Tink was the first show of the 2015-16 season for Stage Right! and drew more than 750 people for each of three performances at the historic Palace Theatre. The play was inspired by Marino's son, Anthony, who mentioned her name. Marino decided Tink is woefully ignored in the Pan books; only a few lines refer to her past, and she's often portrayed as just a ball of light.

"I seized upon the opportunity to find a story of female empowerment," Marino said. "I am surrounded by young people as a teacher, and as that you get to see the problems they have, the journeys they put themselves on, and in most cases the trial and error of those choices. I wanted to create a character who did all that and still found her way home."

For the New York performances, Stage Right! will keep Elly Noble as the actress who portrays Tink. The theatre company will hold other auditions in April, in Greensburg and New York, at venues to be announced. Tickets will go on sale June 1.

Founded in 1998 with just 12 students, Stage Right! has enrollment averaging 180 students year-round. The school is based on the tenet that having professional artists instruct, mentor and work alongside

student actors helps to create successful graduates. Students are taught by professionals and then given the opportunity to work with them on stage. Stage Right! students have been accepted at some of the top musical theatre schools in the nation.

“We now have students who have graduated from college, received their Equity cards, performed in New York and the tri-state area, and returned to teach or give a master’s class at Stage Right!,” said Chris Orosz, executive director.

The New York Musical Festival nurtures the creation, production, and public presentation of new musicals, with a goal of ensuring the vitality of musical theatre. The first Festival, staged in 2004, featured more than 30 full-length musicals and was met with critical and popular acclaim. More than 350 shows have premiered at the Festival since then, featuring more than 8,000 artists and entertaining more than 300,000 audience members. Those musicals and artists have gone on to successes on and off Broadway, reaching literally millions of theatergoers worldwide.

### **About Stage Right!**

Stage Right! builds a culturally-engaged community through performing arts education and advocacy. We are a catalyst for personal creative expression and character development, with a focus on professionals mentoring young performers. Our diverse, multidisciplinary initiatives provide a positive and supportive environment that improves quality of life for communities. Stage Right! Theatre Company offers top-notch professional theatre and employs 20-25 Equity actors per season. We maintain 10 productions throughout the season, by adults, students and children.

### **About Tink**

Book by Anthony Marino; music by Lena Gabrielle; lyrics by Greg Kerestan and Lena Gabrielle. In a time before time was important, there was an island full of music and magic, where pirates, natives, fairies and other mysterious folk lived, loved and fought together— until one young fairy and one young pirate crossed paths. When first mate James of the Jolly Roger met the yearning, idealistic fairy Tinkerbell, their star-crossed romance brings together the population of Neverland, from the mischievous Dream Weaver fairies to the mighty Natives, and even a colony of scavenging boys whose leader fell from the sky.

### **About Tink author and Stage Right! Artistic Director Anthony Marino**

Tony has been an Equity actor for 20 years and is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and the Dramatist’s Guild of America. He started writing stories as a child and the act of coming up with them and telling them has remained a constant fascination. He has been artistic director since Stage Right’s inception in 1998. He has directed over 60 professional productions in and around the Pittsburgh region, and created the successful Book Come Alive program that partners with children’s book authors to make their work into mini-musicals that travel to local libraries across Pennsylvania. This summer he is collaborating with NFL All-Pro Antonio Brown to turn his childhood into the children’s musical, “Run Antonio, Run.” His company created one of the first sensory-friendly theatre series in the region, catering to audiences with special needs. His previously produced full-length musicals include Snow White; a new musical, The Adventures of Little Red; Sleeping Beauty; and Rivers of Destiny (the story of George Washington and the French and Indian War).

### **About Musical Director Lena Gabrielle**

Lena Gabrielle is a native of Rochester NY; she began to compose, sing, and play violin and piano at age three. A Harry Potter super-fan, Lena rose to acclaim as a teen singing with her band, "The Butterbeer Experience," which eventually led to her musical theatre writing career. After graduating from Ithaca College with a degree in music theory, Lena lived briefly in Portland, OR, and New York City before finding her home in Pittsburgh. While living in Pittsburgh, Lena worked as resident composer at Stage Right! and musically directed productions at Stage Right!, The Geyer PAC, Split Stage Productions, and Stage 62. Shortly after premiering Tink! last year, Lena Gabrielle returned to New York City. She currently works as a music director, composer, orchestrator, vocal coach, and actor, with an emphasis in new works development. She has a special passion for working with children and directing multigenerational productions. [lenagabriellemusic.com](http://lenagabriellemusic.com)

### **About actress Elly Noble**

Elly grew up in Westmoreland County and is thrilled fly back to Neverland! She originated the role of Tink in the play's World Premiere at Stage Right! in Greensburg in 2015. With Stage Right!, Elly was seen as Peter Pan in 2009, and as Snow White in 2012. She lives in New York City and originated the role of Helen in MCC Theater's revival of "Carrie" off-Broadway and was featured on the original cast recording, as well as in Time magazine. In and around the city, she has been a featured vocalist in cabarets, concerts, and workshops. More recently, she was Little Red at St. Vincent Theatre's "Into the Woods." Elly was one of the original Stage Right! sensations, and got her B.F.A. from Point Park University's Conservatory of Performing Arts where she was awarded the Rising Star Award. In addition to acting, Elly is a ceramics instructor in Chelsea, NY, and the owner/operator of missellymade.com.

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