



For Immediate Release:
Press Contact: Dianna Costello
dianna@capeplayhouse.com

**The Rock Musical *tick, tick...BOOM!*
Blasts Into the Cape Playhouse June 5th!**

DENNIS, MA – The Cape Playhouse begins its 98th season with a loud *BOOM!* in this semi-autobiographical musical by the late Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning composer of the blockbuster *Rent*. Directed by recently appointed Artistic Director Eric Rosen in his inaugural season, *tick, tick...BOOM!* will feature Broadway stars Andy Mientus, Larry Owens, and Krystina Alabado in an electrifying score that seamlessly blends rock, pop, and musical theater.

Originally written by Larson before *Rent*, this captivating musical masterpiece follows Jon, an aspiring composer on the brink of turning thirty, determined to get his big break in the New York theatre scene. While Jon’s girlfriend wants to get married and move to Cape Cod and his best friend has given up acting to make big bucks on Madison Avenue, Jon struggles to realize his artistic dreams under pressure from the relentless ticking of time.

Several reasons made *tick, tick...BOOM!* the perfect choice for Rosen to kick off the Cape Playhouse 2024 summer season. “Larson references Cape Cod a number of times in the show, including memories of growing up on a beach in Hyannis,” Rosen said. “The Larson family owned a home in Hyannis Port, and his sister Julie told me that she and Jonathan saw their first play at the Cape Playhouse when he was three years old.” *The Wizard of Oz* inspired Jonathan and Julie to stage their version of this musical for their parents on the beach behind their house in Hyannis Port. Rosen continues, “The idea that on opening night we’ll be returning Jonathan’s voice to the place where he fell in love with theater is magical and I’m really excited to restore Jonathan Larson’s vision as he makes his Playhouse debut.”



Rosen first helmed this production at Bucks County Playhouse in 2023 with actors Andy Mientus and Krystina Alabado who he invited to join him for his inaugural production at the Cape Playhouse. Andy (Jon) is an actor, singer, and writer best known for starring in the Broadway musicals *Spring Awakening*, *Les Misérables*, and *Wicked*, and on television in the NBC musical drama *Smash* and as Hartley Rathaway/Pied Piper in the hit CW series *The Flash*. Krystina (Susan) is an actor, singer, and voice actor known for her work in Broadway musicals, TV, Films, and touring productions. She originated the role of Vanden in the 2016 Broadway production of *American Psycho* and starred as Gretchen Wieners in *Mean Girls* on Broadway from 2019 until the show's final performance.

Mr. Rosen added two new members to the Cape Playhouse production, actor Larry Owens (Michael) and music director Andy Roninson, each with their own special connection to this show as recipients of the prestigious Jonathan Larson Grant Award recognizing the spark of talent in emerging artists. A multi-hyphenate comedian, actor, writer, and singer, Larry received a Lucille Lortel Award and a Drama Desk Award for his leading performance in the off-Broadway musical *A Strange Loop*. He has acted in television shows, including *Search Party*, *High Maintenance*, *Modern Love*, and *Abbott Elementary*.

tick, tick, BOOM opens on June 5 and runs to June 15. First-week showtimes are Wednesday to Saturday at 7:30 PM with Thursday and Saturday matinees at 2:00 PM. Showtimes for the second week are Monday to Saturday at 7:30 PM with Wednesday and Thursday matinees at 2:00 PM. Following *tick, tick...BOOM!*, the Cape Playhouse presents *Million Dollar Quartet* (June 19-July 6), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (July 10-August 3), *Waitress* (August 7-August 24) and *The 39 Steps* (August 28-September 7).

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BIOS

ERIC ROSEN (*Director*) was appointed Artistic Director of The Cape Playhouse in August 2023. Prior to joining The Cape Playhouse, Rosen ran the Kansas City Repertory Theater (KC Rep) from 2008 to 2018. He guided the organization through a period of significant change, transforming a 44-year-old company into a respected incubator and engine for the development of stories that reached Broadway and stages worldwide. His programming at Kansas City Rep

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included large-scale, pre-New York musicals, including the Tony-nominated *A Christmas Story*, The Public Theater's *Venice*, and Lincoln Center's *Clay*. Before joining KC Rep, Rosen co-founded and led Chicago's About Face Theater, a nationally recognized and community-focused LGBTQ arts organization that has provided innovative theater and educational programming for nearly three decades. While there, Rosen built and directed the creative strategy, designed programming slates that earned 24 Joseph Jefferson "Jeff" Awards, and developed and launched the pre-Broadway premier of *I Am My Own Wife*, which went on to win the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play. As an independent artist, Rosen has developed projects for PBS and directed regionally, including the acclaimed production of *Tick, Tick... Boom!* at Bucks County Playhouse in 2023 and the much-lauded Arena Stage production of *Indecent*, for which he received the Helen Hayes Award for Best Director. He has been recognized with Joseph Jefferson and Barrymore Awards, and his work at About Face Theater earned him awards from Human Rights Campaign and Equality Illinois, as well as an induction into Chicago's LGBTQ Hall of Fame.

ANDY MIENTUS (*Jonathan*) is an actor and writer best known for his work on Broadway and television. He recently starred in the live action television adaptation of "Grendel" based on the award winning Dark Horse comic book. Also on Netflix, he can be seen in "Dolly Parton's Heartstrings: Two Doors Down" (GLAAD Media Award) and in the series recurring role of Hartley Rathaway (aka The Pied Piper) on the hit CW series "The Flash". Andy made his television debut as composer Kyle Bishop on the NBC musical drama "Smash" and was also a series regular on the NBC/Universal series "Gone". Other recurring roles include on "Anger Management" (FX) and "Chasing Life" (Freeform). On Broadway, Andy starred as "Marius" in the revival of *Les Miserables*, and as "Hanschen" in Deaf West Theater's revival of *Spring Awakening*, which he also co-conceived with director Michael Arden. Other stage credits include the National Tour of *Wicked*, the title role in *Tommy* at The Denver Center, Moisés Kaufman's revival of *Bent* at Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, the Off-Broadway revival of *Carrie* at MCC, *Tick Tick Boom* at Bucks County Playhouse, and recently Jim Henson's musical *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* directed by Christopher Gattelli at Studebaker Theater in Chicago. Andy made his London stage debut a few years ago in the new musical *The View Upstairs* at Soho Theatre. He is a founding company member of The Forest of Arden and was associate director of their first commission, *ALIEN/NATION*, at Williamstown Theatre Festival. As a writer, he made his debut with the book and lyrics to *Burn All Night* at American Repertory Theater (ART), and with the middle grade fiction series *The Backstagers* from Amulet/Abrams. Andy's YA novel, *Fraternity* was published in September 2022 by Amulet/Abrams which was recently optioned by Sony Pictures Television and RuCo. He can be heard on "The Jonathan Larson Project" (Ghostlight Records) and "R&H Goes Pop". Andy trained at the University of Michigan immediately prior to making his professional debut in *Spring Awakening* directed by Michael Mayer.

LARRY OWENS (*Michael*) is the recipient of a 2023 Jonathan Larson Grant as well as a winner of both a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Actor and a Lucille Lortel Award for

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starring as the alter ego of writer/composer/lyricist Michael R. Jackson in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical *A Strange Loop* at Playwrights Horizons. Larry can most recently be seen on “Abbott Elementary” (ABC), “Life & Beth” (HULU), “High Maintenance” (HBO), “Betty” (HBO), “Search Party” (HBO Max), *Problemista* (A24), *Dumb Money* (SONY) and the upcoming Miramax feature, *Silent Retreat*, directed by Todd Strauss-Schulson. Larry studied drama and improvisation at the School at Steppenwolf. Owens starred in the curated concert *Sondheimia* at Carnegie Hall, where he explored time, love, and ambition through the music and lyrics of Stephen Sondheim. He is the author of *The American Football Musical*, a satire of The Blind Side-esque sports/white savior films; *The Talk Show*, about an evil female talk show host (also his directorial debut at the Tribeca Film Festival under the title *The Gag* starring Sherie Rene Scott); *Five Sisters*, a play about gendered succession written in verse and AAVE.

KRYSTINA ALABADO (*Susan*). Broadway: Gretchen Wieners in *Mean Girls*, *American Psycho*, Green Day’s *American Idiot*. National Tours: *Evita*, *American Idiot*, *Spring Awakening*. Off-Broadway: *The Mad Ones* (Samantha Brown), *Ain’t No Disco* (Atlantic Theatre Company), David Bowie’s *Lazarus* (NYTW). Select Regional: *Sunday in the Park with George* (Dot/Marie, Pasadena Playhouse), *Kiss My Aztec* (Hartford Stage), *Miss You Like Hell* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Tick Tick Boom* (Bucks County Playhouse), *Mystic Pizza* (Ogunquit Playhouse), *Burn All Night* (A.R.T.). TV/Film: Voice of Cherri Bomb on *Hazbin Hotel* (Amazon Prime), *Better Nate Than Ever* (Disney+), *If You See Something*, *The Zombie Wedding*, *First Reformed*, *Tyrant* (FX), *God Friended Me* (CBS), *Monster High* (Nickelodeon), *Mecha Builders* (HBOMax), *Voltron* (Netflix). IG/TikTok @krystinaalabado

ABOUT THE CAPE PLAYHOUSE

The Cape Playhouse at The Cape Center for the Arts was founded in 1927 by Raymond Moore. His vision was to create a smart, sophisticated summer theatre with some of the world’s most noted stage and screen professionals. The realization of Moore’s dream has since been recognized by The New York Times, acknowledging the Playhouse as the “Place Where Broadway Goes to Summer.” Almost a century later, the theatre continues to feature world-class talent in shows produced specifically for The Cape Playhouse and is one of Cape Cod’s premier cultural assets. In addition to professional live-theatre experiences, the not-for-profit Playhouse is committed to youth programs and education, serving the local community. The historic theatre is situated on an expansive 22-acre campus along with the Cape Cod Museum of Art and the Cape Cinema.