



## News Release

1501 Euclid Avenue  
Suite 200  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

216-771-4444  
playhousesquare.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Media Contact:** Kelly Schikowski

**Phone:** 216-640-8652

**E-mail:** [kelly.schikowski@playhousesquare.org](mailto:kelly.schikowski@playhousesquare.org)

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# DEAR EVAN HANSEN

THE TONY AWARD-WINNING BEST MUSICAL

**“THEATRICAL MAGIC. ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE  
SHOWS IN MUSICAL THEATER HISTORY.”**

*-The Washington Post*

## TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL

# DEAR EVAN HANSEN

**WILL PLAY PLAYHOUSE SQUARE FROM  
TUESDAY, MAY 16 TO SUNDAY, MAY 21**

**CLEVELAND** - *Dear Evan Hansen* producer **Stacey Mindich** is pleased to announce complete casting for year four of the Tony Award-winning musical's critically-acclaimed, record-breaking North American Tour. **Anthony Norman** will play the title role 'Evan Hansen,' **Coleen Sexton** will play 'Heidi Hansen,' **Lili Thomas** will play 'Cynthia Murphy,' and **August Emerson** will play 'Connor Murphy.' **Pablo Laucerica** and **Micaela Lamas** also join the onstage company as 'Jared Kleinman' and 'Alana Beck.' **John Hemphill** and **Alaina Anderson** continue with the

tour, with John reprising his role as 'Larry Murphy,' and Alaina, formerly the Alana/Zoe cover, taking over the role of 'Zoe Murphy' full-time.

The cast also includes **Jeffrey Cornelius** (as the Evan alternate) and understudies **Valeria Ceballos, Ian Coursey, Reese Sebastian Diaz, Gillian Jackson Han, Isabel Santiago, Daniel Robert Sullivan, Kelsey Venter** and **Pierce Wheeler**.

**Dear Evan Hansen** will play the Connor Palace at Playhouse Square Tuesday, May 16 – Sunday, May 21. Playhouse Square one of the final engagements of this National tour. Tickets are available now online at [playhousesquare.org](http://playhousesquare.org) or by phone at 216-241-6000. **Dear Evan Hansen** is a 2022-23 Huntington Bank Featured Performance at Playhouse Square.

**Dear Evan Hansen** is recommended for ages 12+; This production contains some adult themes, including discussions of suicide. Children under the age of four will not be permitted in the theatre.

The winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, **Dear Evan Hansen** features a book by Tony Award-winner **Steven Levenson**, a score by Grammy®, Tony® and Academy Award® winners **Benj Pasek and Justin Paul** (*La La Land, The Greatest Showman*), and direction by four-time Tony Award nominee **Michael Greif** (*Rent, Next to Normal*).

Declared “Theatrical magic. One of the most remarkable shows in musical theater history” by the *Washington Post’s* Peter Marks, **Dear Evan Hansen** opened at the Music Box Theatre to rave reviews , where it’s broken all box office records and struck a chord with critics and audiences alike.

In addition to winning six Tony awards, **Dear Evan Hansen** has won numerous other awards, including the Drama League Award for Outstanding Musical Production and for the off-Broadway production, two Obie Awards, a Drama Desk Award, and two Outer Critics Circle Awards and two Helen Hayes Awards. The show’s original cast won a Daytime Emmy Award for “Best Musical Performance on a Daytime Talk Show” for their performance of “You Will Be Found” on NBC’s “Today Show,” only the second Broadway show in history to win that category.

The Grammy Award-winning Original Broadway Cast Recording of **Dear Evan Hansen**, produced by Atlantic Records, made an extraordinary debut on the Billboard 200 and entering the chart at #8 – the highest charting debut position for an original cast album since 1961 – and went on to win the Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. A Deluxe Album of the Grammy-winning cast recording, with six bonus tracks including “Waving Through a Window” performed by pop star Katy Perry.

A special edition coffee table book authored by Levenson, Pasek and Paul, **Dear Evan Hansen: through the window** (Grand Central Publishing / Melcher) is now available, offering an in-depth, all-access look at the musical, including never-before-seen production photos and cast portraits, behind-the-scenes stories, and a fully annotated script by the authors.

***Dear Evan Hansen*** features scenic design by **David Korins**, projection design by **Peter Nigrini**, costume design by **Emily Rebholz**, lighting design by **Japhy Weideman**, sound design by **Nevin Steinberg**, and hair design by **David Brian Brown**. Music supervision, orchestrations and additional arrangements are by **Alex Lacamoire**. **Ben Cohn** is the Associate Music Supervisor. Vocal arrangements and additional arrangements are by **Justin Paul**. **Danny Mefford** is the choreographer. U.S. Casting by **Tara Rubin Casting/Lindsay Levine**. **Adrienne Campbell-Holt**, **Sash Bischoff** and **Adam Quinn** are the Associate Directors. **Judith Schoenfeld** is the Production Supervisor.

The touring production of ***Dear Evan Hansen*** is produced by Stacey Mindich. The co-producers are Mickey Liddell, Hunter Arnold, Caiola Productions, Double Gemini Productions, Fakston Productions, Roy Furman, Harris Karma Productions, On Your Marks Group, Darren Bagert, Roger & William Berlind, Bob Boyett, Colin Callender, Caitlin Clements, Freddy DeMann, Dante Di Loreto, Bonnie & Kenneth Feld, FickStern Productions, Eric & Marsi Gardiner, Robert Greenblatt, Jere Harris and Darren DeVerna, The John Gore Organization, Mike Kriak, David Mirvish, Eva Price, Zeilinger Productions, Adam Zotovich, Ambassador Theatre Group, Independent Presenters Network, and the Shubert Organization, in association with Arena Stage, Molly Smith and Edgar Dobie, and Second Stage Theatre, Carole Rothman, and Casey Reitz. Wendy Orshan and Jeffrey M. Wilson are Executive Producers.

***Dear Evan Hansen*** will play in the Connor Palace at Playhouse Square from Tuesday, May 16 through Sunday, May 21. Show times are Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets for all performances will be available at [playhousesquare.org](http://playhousesquare.org) or by calling 216-241-6000. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by calling 216-640-8600. ***Dear Evan Hansen*** a 2022-23 Huntington Bank Featured Performance.

## CAST BIOS

**ANTHONY NORMAN** (*Evan Hansen*) Honored and beyond grateful to be here. Multi-instrumentalist from Chicago. Broadway: *The Prom* (OBC); National Tour: *Newsies*; TV/Film: *Mare of Easttown*, *Chicago Med*, *Newsies Live*, *Dropping* (upcoming); Selected Regional: Marcus in *Murder for Two* (FLMTF). Thanks to Richard Lissemore for showing me the way, Melissa Cross, Steve, Randi, Cady Huffman and Scott Weinstein. Thanks to the *DEH* team for welcoming me with such open arms. To Stacey, Danny, and Ben for believing in me. To Mom and Dad for your unwavering support. To stream my upcoming EP and future announcements, check out [www.anthonynorman.com](http://www.anthonynorman.com) or follow @a\_norms on Instagram.

**ALAINA ANDERSON** (*Zoe Murphy*) is elated to be making her professional debut! Proud alum of Yale University, B.A. Cognitive Science. Previous roles include Aldonza (*Man of La Mancha*), Wendla (*Spring Awakening*), Cinderella (*Into The Woods*), and Nina (*In The Heights*). Love and gratitude to the wonderful family, friends, and mentors who have supported her, as well as Tara Rubin, Xavier Rubiano, Stacey Mindich, and the entire *DEH* team. IG/Twitter: @laynieanderson. TikTok: @alainymous. [alainanicoleanderson.com](http://alainanicoleanderson.com)

**COLEEN SEXTON** (*Heidi Hansen*) starred on Broadway as Lucy when she was 20 years old in *Jekyll and Hyde*, as well as the TV version *Jekyll and Hyde: Direct from Broadway* opposite

David Hasselhoff. National Tours: *Wicked* (Elphaba); *Legally Blonde* (Brooke Wyndham); *Chicago* (June/Go-To-Hell Kitty/US Mama Morton). Regional: *Mamma Mia!* (Donna); *Spamalot* (Lady of The Lake); *End of the Rainbow* (Judy Garland). Sending lots of love and thanks to the DEH/Tara Rubin teams and her Ma! @colsex79

**LILI THOMAS** (*Cynthia Murphy*) is overjoyed to join *DEH!* Recently in Dave Malloy's pre-Broadway run of *Octet*. Off-B'way: *We're Gonna Die* (2nd Stage), *The Hello Girls*, *Only Human*. Select regional: Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Berkeley Rep, Milwaukee Rep, The Rev. BFA NYU/Tisch. BIG thanks to Kevin & TRC, Matt & Kat at DGRW, and my loves, Annabelle & Jack, for letting Mommy make and find her own map! Endless gratitude to Mom... this is for you. @thelilithomas [www.lili-thomas.com](http://www.lili-thomas.com)

**AUGUST EMERSON** (*Connor Murphy*) made his professional theatre debut at age 8 in *The Rothschilds* under the direction of Lonny Price. After an extended detour in film and television, August has finally found his way back to the stage. For all their support and love and guidance he would sincerely like to thank Deborah, Danna, Nichole, Jordan, Gia, Marianne, Melissa D., Richard H., *The Faby's*, *Take 3* and Michael Larsen. IG: @augemer

**JOHN HEMPHILL** (*Larry Murphy*) starred on Broadway as Sam/Bill in *Mamma Mia!*, original Broadway company of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *School of Rock*. First National Tour of *The Curious Incident of The Dog In The Night-Time*. Film: *Zodiac* directed by Academy Award nominated David Fincher. TV: *Castle*, *Monk*, *Las Vegas*, *The Black List*, *Mr. Robot*, *Big Love* among others. Hi to my students at Stephens College! John is ever grateful to wife Jenn. @johnhemphill

**PABLO LAUCERICA** (*Jared Kleinman*) is PUMPED to be joining the DEH fam! A Miami-born Cuban-American, he recently graduated from Northwestern University, specializing in vocal performance and musical theatre. His main artistic interests include acting, songwriting, music production and content creation. Find his music content on TikTok/Instagram @pablodlaucERICA! Special thanks to Stewart Talent, Stacey Mindich, Tara Rubin, Xavier Rubiano, and the entire DEH team. Lots of love to Mami, Papi, Kaki, and the Primelles for their constant support.

**MICAELA LAMAS** (*Alana Beck*). She/Her. Micaela is thrilled to join the *DEH* fam! She's a recent grad of the Texas State University BFA Musical Theatre program (go bobcats!) and a Texas native. All the love & thanks to CGF, the *DEH* team, Tara Rubin casting, and every teacher along the way. Love to her friends, family, and especially mom & her grandparents. Love you always.

**JEFFREY CORNELIUS** (*Alternate Evan Hansen; u/s Jared Kleinman*) He/him. Jeffrey is ecstatic to be making his national tour debut in *Dear Evan Hansen!* Jackson MS Native and Current Student at CCM. LINK: *Class 4*, *Homeschool Musical: Class of 2020* on HBOMax. Favorite Shows include *Pippin* (CCM), *Once* (CCM). Huge Thank You to Mommy, Daddy, Daniel, Granny, Grandpa, Nana, PawPaw, Uncle John, TT, Kevin, and EVERY SINGLE Teacher and Mentor who helped me get to this point. It takes a village. @thejeffreycornelius on Instagram.

**VALERIA CEBALLOS** (*u/s Zoe Murphy; Alana Beck*) She/her. Valeria is thrilled to be making her Broadway National Tour debut! She is endlessly grateful to the team at Tara Rubin, the

DEH creative team, The Mine, her family, and her friends for supporting this little Latina's big dreams. @valeriaeceballos

**IAN COURSEY** (*u/s Connor Murphy; Jared Kleinman*) recently finished his sophomore year at the University of Michigan. At Michigan, he is proud to have played the roles of Eddie Birdlace (*DOGFIGHT*), and George Berger (*HAIR*). Ian is thrilled to be a part of this beautiful show and would like to thank his family, friends, professors, Rolando Sanz, the *DEH* team, Danny and Haley. Go Blue!

**REESE SEBASTIAN DIAZ** (*u/s Evan Hansen, Connor Murphy, Jared Kleinman*). (He/Him) Reese is overjoyed to join the *DEH* family! Broadway: *Mary Poppins*. National Tours: *Mary Poppins, Beauty and the Beast*. Special thanks to the *DEH/Tara Rubin* teams. Much love to Mom, Dad, Nana, Sam, Frank, Roni, Warren, family, friends, and teachers. @ReeseSDiaz

**GILLIAN JACKSON HAN** (*u/s Zoe Murphy, Alana Beck*) is over the moon to be making her national tour debut in *Dear Evan Hansen*! She is a proud member of the AAPI/multiracial community and is filled with gratitude for the actors whose work made her own career possible. BWMT. Thanks to family, chosen and biological, her mentors, the *Tara Rubin* team, CTG, A and her parents. Always for J. Twitter, Instagram, TikTok: @with\_a\_gee

**ISABEL SANTIAGO** (*u/s Heidi Hansen, Cynthia Murphy*) Select Movie/TV: *Blue Bloods, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, In The Heights, and Martin Eden*. Off-Broadway: *First Daughter Suite, GIANT*. National Tour: *In The Heights*. Concert: *PBS' Great Performances: Bernstein's MASS, The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and The Philadelphia Orchestra*. For Adam Swope. @mynameslsabel

**DANIEL ROBERT SULLIVAN** (*u/s Larry Murphy*) performed as Tommy DeVito in *Jersey Boys* more than 1000 times with the Las Vegas, Toronto, and touring companies, and in the national tour of *Motown the Musical*. He's the author of *Prospect High: Brooklyn, Braving the Bronx River, Becoming A Jersey Boy, and There's No Substitute for Empathy*.

**KELSEY VENTER** (*u/s Heidi Hansen, Cynthia Murphy*). National Tour: *Dear Evan Hansen*. Selected Regional: *Guthrie Theater, American Conservatory Theater, Old Globe Theater*. BA in Theater SDSU, MFA American Conservatory Theater. All love and gratitude to my incredible family, friends, and mentors for believing in me. [www.kelseyventer.com](http://www.kelseyventer.com)

**PIERCE WHEELER** (*u/s Evan Hansen, Jared Kleinman*). He/him. Pierce is so excited to make his professional debut with the *DEH* family. After studying for a year at NYU Tisch, he is thankful to travel the country and tell this beautiful story. Special thanks to family, friends, and teachers. @pierce\_wheeler

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