**NEWS RELEASE (including Cast List) ­– *For Immediate Release***

**Get Ready, Phoenix… Here Comes *Spamilton*!**

*(Updated June 12, 2019 – Phoenix)* The Phoenix Theatre Company will present the Southwest Regional premiere of the North American tour of the hit musical comedy *Spamilton: An American Parody* from June 12 to August 11. Tickets are on sale now.

Created by Gerard Alessandrini, the comic mastermind behind the long-running hit *Forbidden Broadway* and performed by a versatile cast of seven, *Spamilton: An American Parody* is a side-splitting new musical parody. After tearing it up in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and London, *Spamilton: An American Parody*will stage a singing, dancing, comedy revolution in Phoenix.

Marilyn Stasio of *Variety* mused, “Hip-hop, Broadway showtunes, Viennese waltzes — is there anything this guy can’t write? No, not *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, but Gerard Alessandrini, whose ingenious parody *Spamilton* simultaneously salutes and sends up Miranda and his signature musical.”

Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* said, “This smart, silly, and often convulsively funny thesis, performed by a motor-mouthed cast that is fluent in many tongues, is the work of that eminent specialist in Broadway anatomy, pathology, and gossip, Gerard Alessandrini.”

The creative team also includes Gerry McIntyre (choreography), Morgan Large (set design), Dustin Cross (costume design), Michael Gilliam (lighting design), Fred Barton (music supervision), Michael Cassara, CSA (casting) and Curtis Reynolds (music direction).

The North American tour of *Spamilton: An American Parody*is produced by Spamiltour LLC. *Spamilton* was originally produced at The Triad Theater in New York City by John Freedson, David Zippel, Gerard Alessandrini and Christine Pedi.

*Spamilton* tickets are on sale now and start at just $32. To purchase by phone, call (602) 254-2151 or visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

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**ABOUT THE CREATOR**

**GERARD ALESSANDRINI** (Creator, Writer, Director) *Spamilton:* (Creator/ Writer/Director): New York, London, Chicago, Los Angeles, National Tour. *Forbidden Broadway* (creator/ writer/director): 25 editions all over the world. Also *Forbidden Hollywood* (writer/director), *Madame X: The Musical* (NYMF) (co-writer/director), *The Nutcracker & I* (lyrics), Maury Yeston’s review *Anything Can Happen* in New York. Television: special material for Carol Burnett, Angela Lansbury and Bob Hope. Film: *Aladdin, Pocahontas* (vocals). Recordings: 12 *Forbidden Broadway* cast albums, *Forbidden Hollywood* & *Spamilton* cast albums. Special Lyrics: Barbra Streisand Duets 2. Awards: Drama League Lifetime Achievement Award, Obie Award, 2 Lucille Lortel Awards, 7 Drama Desk (2 Best Lyrics, 2 Special Achievement, 3 Best Musical Revue), and a Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre. Special thanks to husband Glenn Bassett for contributing his many talents to *Spamilton*.

**ABOUT THE CAST**

**CHUCKIE BENSON** (Ben Franklin, George Washington and others, Dance Captain) Incredibly grateful to reunite with my Spamilton family. Recent credits include: Heartbreak Hotel (Chicago Cast), Spamilton (Chicago), The Wiz (Lion), Big River (Jim), etc. Thank you to God, my beautiful parents and Paonessa Talent Agency. IG: @chuckie.benson

**PALOMA D’AURIA** (Leading Ladies) National Tour: *Elf* (Jovie), Regional: *American Idiot* (St. Jimmy), *A Chorus Line* (Diana Morales), *Pippin* (Leading player), *West Side Story* (Graziella) among others. A proud graduate of Marymount Manhattan College '18 (BFA in acting/minor in musical theater). Thankful to be clowning around with the Spamilton family! Thank you Michael Cassara Casting! Thank you to BlocNYC! Thank you Mom, Dad, and Claud! [www.palomadauria.com](http://www.palomadauria.com/) @palomadauria

**MARISSA HECKER** (Swing) National tour debut! Regional: West Side Story (Consuela) at Weston Playhouse, Cabaret (Lulu/Dance Captain) at Lake Dillon Theatre Company. Endless love to The Price Group, Mom, Dad, Fiona, and Phoebe. Proud CCM grad. For Max. marissahecker.com

**BRANDON KINLEY** (King George III, Swing) Xenia, Ohio native, writer, actor and musician with a BFA from Wright State University. Was in Spamilton - Chicago and is very grateful to be part of the Spam Fam again! Gratitude: Mom & Dad the best support system ever, my siblings and extended family and friends. IG: @and\_itgoesonandon

**ADRIAN LOPEZ** (Lin-Manuel) Spamilton National Tour. Graduate of SHSU (BFA Musical Theatre c/o 2018). Endless gratitude to Gerard Alessandrini, Michael Cassara Casting, The Open Jar Institute, my friends, mi familia, and every teacher I’ve ever had.

IG: @adrian\_lopezz

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**DOMINIC PECIKONIS** (Daveed Diggs and others) National Tour debut! Thanks to God, my

family, Michael Cassara Casting and the entire Spamilton team. Shout out to Jeff Whiting and The Open Jar Institute for making this dream a reality. BFA Musical Theatre: Sam Houston State University. IG: @mythriftyaesthetic Facebook: Dominic Pecikonis

**DATUS PURYEAR** (Aaron Burr, Leslie Odom Jr.) is thrilled to join the national tour of Spamilton! His favorite credits include Broadway’s Cotton Club musical After Midnight, Tarell McCraney’s Choir Boy, Dreamgirls, 50 Shades! the Musical (National Tour), and Dunkfest88 (Off-Broadway). Proverbs 16:9 @datuspuryear

**ABOUT THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY**

The Phoenix Theatre Company is the largest professional regional theatre company in Arizona. As the first arts organization in Arizona and a founding member of the Central Arts District, The Phoenix Theatre Company is committed to advancing performing arts in the Valley with nearly 500 performances each year on multiple stages. Located at 1825 N Central Ave in Phoenix, The Phoenix Theatre Company’s mission is to create exceptional experiences by using the arts to articulate messages that inspire hope and understanding. In 2020, The Phoenix Theatre Company will celebrate its 100th anniversary. For more information, visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/).

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