NEWS RELEASE ­– *For Immediate Release*

**Release Your Inner Rock Star at The Phoenix Theatre Company’s Musical *Airness***

*(January 17, 2019 – PHOENIX)* Believe it or not, air guitar has become so much more than just rocking out when no one’s looking. Playing air guitar and competing to be a champion is a pastime for a committed group of people all over the world. Now, there is a new play dedicated to the artform called *Airness* and The Phoenix Theatre Company is bringing it to the stage March 6-31, 2019.

Fresh from the Humana Festival of New American Plays, *Airness* makes its southwestern regional premiere with The Phoenix Theatre Company. With a commitment to fostering new plays and musicals, The Phoenix Theatre Company is proud to be producing this new play about the uninhibited world of competitive air guitar as a part of its 99th season.

## Winner of the 2018 [M. Elizabeth Osborn New Play Award](http://americantheatrecritics.org/homepublic/2018/4/5/chelsea-marcantels-airness-wins-2018-osborn-new-play-award.html) given by the American Theatre Critics Association, Airness includes many familiar rock songs as air guitar numbers, such as “Crazy Train,” “Don’t Stop Believing,” “Rebel Yell” and “Somebody to Love.”

## “*Airness* is all of us, our youth, our now. It’s a brand new piece of theatre that we all relate to. What you will see on stage are mirrors of ourselves: that hidden rock star that we all pretended to be, and maybe still do,” said Pasha Yamotahari*,* director of *Airness* for The Phoenix Theatre Company. “This is a hidden world that *does* exist, where everyday people ditch their 9 to 5 facade and celebrate the rock star inside.”

Based around the official rules of U.S. Air Guitar, *Airness* follows newcomer, Nina, as she decides to dive into competitive air guitar, thinking it will be a cinch to take home a win. She quickly finds out that it’s not as easy as it sounds, and with the help of some colorful characters, she learns to let go of her inhibitions and embrace her inner rock star.

In addition to Yamotahari, who last directed *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* for The Phoenix Theatre Company, the cast of *Airness* is comprised of actors all local to Phoenix, many of whom are familiar faces from previous productions. Michelle Chin, a regular on stage for The Phoenix Theatre Company and soon to be starring in *Once*, plays up-and-comer Nina. Caleb Reese, well-known for starring as Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, plays D. Vicious, the reigning air guitar champion. Rounding out the cast are Victor Cervantes Jr. as Golden Thunder, Marshall Glass as Facebender, Alyssa Chiarello (recently in *West Side Story* as Anita) as Cannibal Queen, and Michael Kary as Shreddy Eddy.

*Airness* tickets are on sale now and start at just $29. To purchase by phone, call (602) 254-2151 or visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

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**ABOUT THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY**

The Phoenix Theatre Company, formerly Phoenix Theatre, 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 state with nearly 500 performances each year on multiple stages. Located at 1825 N Central Ave in Phoenix in the heart of downtown, 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, Phoenix Theatre will celebrate its 100th anniversary. For more information visit, [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/).

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