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THE BUCKS COUNTY HERALD REFLECTS THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES.

“Rock and Roll Man” world premiere in New Hope



GORDON NIEBURG

*Larry Marshak, Dave Keyes, Gary Kupper.
George Wendt, Alan Campbell. A.J. Davis, Dr.
Eric B. Turner, Rose Caiola, Early Clover and
Jerome Jackson.*

“Rock and Roll Man: The Alan Freed Story” is making its world premiere at Bucks County Playhouse through Oct. 1.

The high-energy musical drama stars Tony-nominee Alan Campbell (“Sunset Boulevard”) as Alan Freed and multiple-Emmy nominee George Wendt (Norm from “Cheers”) as J. Edgar Hoover.

The cast also includes: Bob Ari, William Louis Bailey, Whitney Bashor, Richard Crandle, John Dewey, Brian

Mathis, Matthew Sean Morgan, Heather Parcells, Soara-Joye Ross, Melissa van der Schyff, Michael Siktberg and James Scheider.

The Quartet is performed by Early Clover, A.J. Davis, Jerome Jackson and Dr. Eric B. Turner.

A Caiola Production, the musical includes a book by Gary Kupper, Larry Marshak and Rose Caiola. Original music and lyrics are by Gary Kupper. Tony Award nominee Randal Myler will direct with choreography by Brian Reeder.

Music supervision and arrangements are by Dave Keyes and Gary Kupper. Keyes is also the production's musical director.

The musical uncovers the true story of Alan Freed – the Father of Rock and Roll. It's the 1950s and a cocky young DJ discovers the music that all America wants to hear – except no radio station will play it.

Pursued by the notorious J. Edgar Hoover for promoting this unwholesome genre, Freed perseveres, unearthing the sound of a new generation through pure guts, grit and determination.

The show features original songs and Rock and Roll hits of the 1950s, by legends like Little Richard, Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis, such as “Sh-Boom,” “Good Golly Miss Molly,” “Ain't that a Shame,” “Rock and Roll is Here to Stay,” “Great Balls of Fire,” “Peggy Sue” and more.

This is the third world premiere production scheduled for Bucks County Playhouse this year.

Campbell has appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway and in regional theater. In addition to TV, Wendt has appeared on Broadway and is a veteran of Chicago's “Second City.”

Tickets to “Rock and Roll Man: The Alan Freed Story” range from \$40 to \$75. Special rates are available for groups of 10 or more. Visit buckscountyplayhouse.org, call 215-862-2121, or visit the box office at 70 S. Main St., New Hope.