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# THE MORNING CALL

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By Kathy Lauer-Williams

## Bucks County Playhouse partners with Philly's Kimmel Center

The Bucks County Playhouse has announced a partnership with Philadelphia's Kimmel Center to foster a cultural exchange of new works.

The partnership will debut with a restaging of Bucks County Playhouse's record-breaking production of "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story." The show broke box-office records when Bucks County Playhouse produced it in 2016, and will return to the playhouse May 27-June 17. It then moves to the Kimmel Center's Perelman Theater on June 24 for previews before opening June 28 and running through July 9. Both organizations are discussing incubator programs that would reach new audiences through shared presentations.

Since reopening in 2012, New Hope's Bucks County Playhouse, under the direction of Producing Director Alexander Fraser and Executive Producer Robyn Goodman and producing partners Joshua Fiedler and Stephen Kocis, has re-established itself as a producing organization with both new works by emerging theater artists and new productions of favorites. Productions have featured stars such as Marilu Henner, Marsha Mason, Patricia Richardson and Jessica Walter.

The Kimmel Center has built a network of emerging and established artists. Producing credits and projects range from the Tony Award-winning musical, "An American in Paris," and the bi-annual Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts to two residency programs — one each for jazz and theater — to foster the creation of new works by local artists.

"We are deeply honored that the Kimmel Center has chosen our production of 'Buddy' to initiate this new summer season at the Perelman," Fraser says "As a producing team, we have worked on Broadway, but in many ways, Broad Street is a bigger deal. We look forward to working with the Kimmel on 'Buddy' and on creating new ways to share innovative work in the coming seasons."

"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story" features more than 20 of Holly's greatest hits, including "That'll Be The Day," "Peggy Sue" and "Oh Boy." The show features a book by Alan Janes. It opened in London's West End, where it ran for more than 10 years, and premiered on Broadway in 1990.

The production is directed by Tony nominee Hunter Foster and choreographed by Lorin Latarro, both Bucks County Playhouse artistic associates.

• **"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story,"** May 27-June 17, Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope. Tickets: \$40-\$75. 215-862-2121, [www.bcptheater.org](http://www.bcptheater.org).

**Also,** June 24-July 9, Perelman Theater at Kimmel Center, 260 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. Tickets go on sale Jan. 23. 215-893-1999, [kimmelcenter.org](http://kimmelcenter.org).