

**Because the best stories  
are the ones that really happened...**

# **Philly** **and the Dreamer**

**It's 1979. All they wanted was a chance. All they needed  
was a connection. What they got ... you won't believe.**

**An original musical based on a true story.**

**Philly and the Dreamer  
has also been titled "Philly"**

**Classic Rock meets Broadway!**

**Music and Lyrics by John Cal  
Book by Kevin Coughlin and John Cal**

**Developmental Producer, Rebecca Rizzio**

**Philly Developmental, LLC  
[www.phillyandthedreamer.com](http://www.phillyandthedreamer.com)**

# The Show

Based on a true story...

It's 1979, and the bright lights of the Big Time are seemingly unattainable from the low-income neighborhoods of Yonkers, NY but that doesn't stop undaunted optimist and passionate songwriter, Johnny, from dreaming.

And when he discovers Phyllis, a hairdresser with the perfect voice, their journey ignites and the story begins.

In both a heartwarming and electric manner, Philly and the Dreamer delivers a fun, multi-generational, family show loaded with entertaining elements and infused with an inspiring message of love and music. It's about believing that with a plan, hard work, and determination, you can achieve what others told you was impossible.

Energized with unforgettable, uplifting, and touching original music, Philly and the Dreamer delights all and reminds you to never stop believing in yourself.



# From the Writer



A grandfather who inspired a dreamer, a hairdresser with an amazing voice, an incredible band named after the singer who could be a star and one good-hearted, karma-believing mobster ... it was an all-too-short magical journey of innocence and optimism. I always felt that the music, combined with its unique surrounding story, would provide a highly entertaining reminder that although fame and fortune is alluring, following your dreams and passions will always lead you to real love.

Philly and the Dreamer was written with a number of specific goals in mind:



- To be an audience-centric, family-friendly show appealing to a multi-generational male and female audience.
- To energize, inspire, and entertain with a positive underlying message while providing an escape from the traumas and angst of the real world.
- To incorporate presentation styles from three of the most popular forms of visual entertainment: musical theater, live concert performance, and cinema.
- To provide an "entertainment buffet" that would blend a variety of moments (comedy, romance, drama) with an assortment of music and dance styles so that everyone would find something they not only like, but love.
- To return to a musical theater style incorporating contagious music that, in itself, could be enjoyed beyond the visual performance.

# Developmental Timeline

Philly's initial draft was completed in December 2012. In 2013, John Cal teamed up with director Rebecca Rizzio, and a production team was assembled to develop the show.

On June 6, 2014, in Minneapolis, a full developmental production of Philly premiered. That week with only Facebook and word-of-mouth advertising, 1,438 people attended, and the last two performances were sold out.

Philly subsequently was nominated and awarded BroadwayWorld's Best Original/New Work in Minneapolis.



In October 2015, Philly's second developmental production run was successfully mounted and was well received by over 2200 people.



# Continued Development

## NYC Industry Reading Presentation

In October 2017, Philly made its NYC debut with a 29-hour staged reading presentation with the help of some amazing talent who were instrumental in rounding out the reading:

**Jeff Whiting**, Director

**Matt Perri**, Music Director (Bandstand),

**Tara Rubin**, Casting Director (Tara Rubin Casting)



The presentation featured 23 professional Broadway actors including:

**Henry Gottfried** (Waitress, Peter Pan Live!)

**Kristy Cates** (Wicked, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory)

**Charlie Marcus** (A Bronx Tale)

**Dominic Nolfi** (A Bronx Tale),

**Marsha Waterbury** (Mamma Mia!)

**Genny Lis Padilla** (On Your Feet)

# Developmental Lab 2018

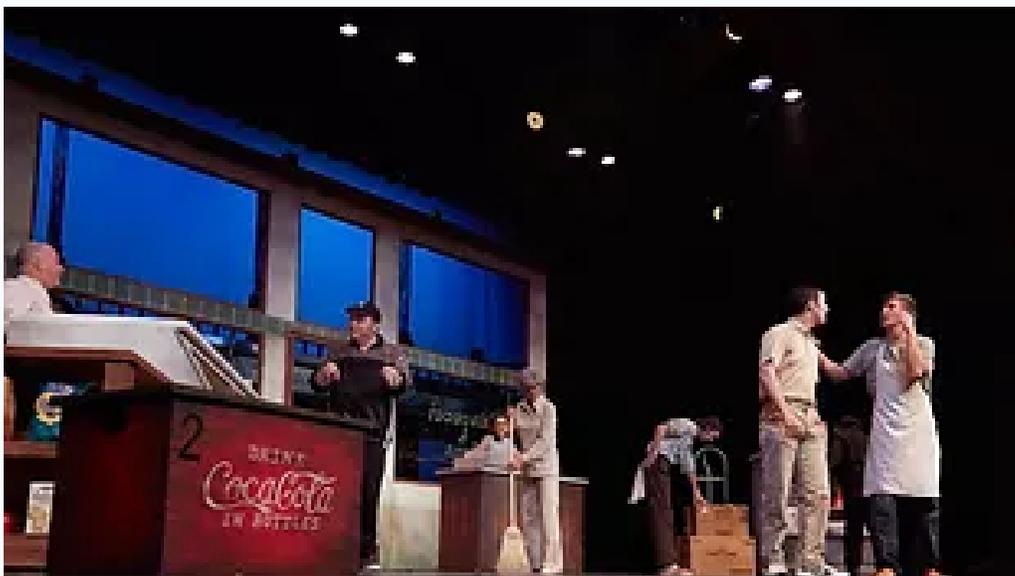
In September of 2018, a full proof-of-concept developmental workshop was conducted in Minneapolis. Led by a dynamic creative production team and fueled by a tireless cast of 23 actors, the intensive 84 hours of rehearsal culminated into two full-length, live presentations in front of an audience of 600 theatergoers and theater professionals.

The presentations were staged with a minimal set, fixed stage lighting, and token costumes, but the audience was unfazed by the simplicity.



Post-presentation feedback was tremendous, validating the workshop as a success and setting the stage for production.

In 2019, Philly was retitled Philly and the Dreamer.



# It's About Pleasing the Audience

"Fabulous! Grabbed my attention right from the start and kept it right until the last minute. Bravo!!!"... **Tracey**

"I've been singing Philly songs all week! What a fun show, great music and lovable characters. Thanks for the augh, surprises, goosebumps, tears and stand-up-and-clap moments! Keep the dream alive!"... **Jenny**

This is a great musical and I feel fortunate to have seen it first here in the Twin Cities. It has a terrific rock score. This is a show that could go places. (Are you listening New York?) ... **Dennis**

"I brought my husband to see this with me. He's never said 'I really liked it!' about any theater performance I've dragged him to (and I've brought him to a lot!) Until 'Philly!' He loved it as much as I did! Amazing story, hilarious and heartwarming. I laughed really hard and I cried really hard. Great music and dancing! What a great night of fun! This is the next big thing for Broadway!!!! Congrats to all of you!"... **Wendy**

Could not LOVE this play more! We have seen it twice and even though we know what will happen, it still captivates us, holds our attention, and pulls us into the story line! Would see it again and again. Whata great lab!... **Nicole**

Philly The Musical impressed me beyond belief. I went in not knowing what to expect, and I left wanting to see it again. This musical has all the makings of a great commercial show including songs that leave an audience humming upon exit, a tantalizing plot, and unexpected casting. The ensemble had wonderful variety and no two characters blended together. As a director, actress, and costumer, this wonderful musical would land on my short list of musicals to participate in for a future performance.... **Susan, Theatre Teacher, Theatre Scholar**

"I loved this play! Wonderful music that is still reverberating in my head. Soundtrack? Yes please. DVD? Yes please. Another run? Please, please, please!"... **Jeff**

"Loved the show! Great story and great music. More please!!!"... **Susan**

Those who did not have the chance to see the debut run of this show really missed out!!! I saw the show not just once, but TWICE!! I enjoyed it so much!!! The great Rock n' Roll music, catchy song lyrics and the love story are married in such a perfect way."... **Elizabeth**

"What a great show. My wife and I thought it was better than some we have seen on Broadway."... **David**

"We really enjoyed the show! Such fun and energy! Hope you can bring the show back for another round, as I would love to be able to send my friends! Music and the story were fantastic!... Keep thinking about the songs - would love to have them on my play list! Nice job to all involved."... **Lynne**

Absolutely EXCELLENT This show should go to Broadway. Wonderful music and lyrics."... **Anita**

"I found out about this show on Facebook from a friend. At one point I realized I had a "perma" smile on my face. What a fun night! So thankful I went. (And theater audience member confession: I may have had goosebumps a few times.... **Colleen**

Wonderful show!!! Amazing music!!! I did not want it to end!!!!... **Tim**

# Representation

Philly and the Dreamer is  
creatively produced and represented by Philly Developmental LLC.

Legal affairs are managed by **Carter Anne McGowan Esq.**  
of Sendroff & Baruch, LLP, NY, NY.



For more information:

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