

SHSU MUSICAL THEATRE!

FALL 2021 SEASON

HOHB

THE MUSICAL

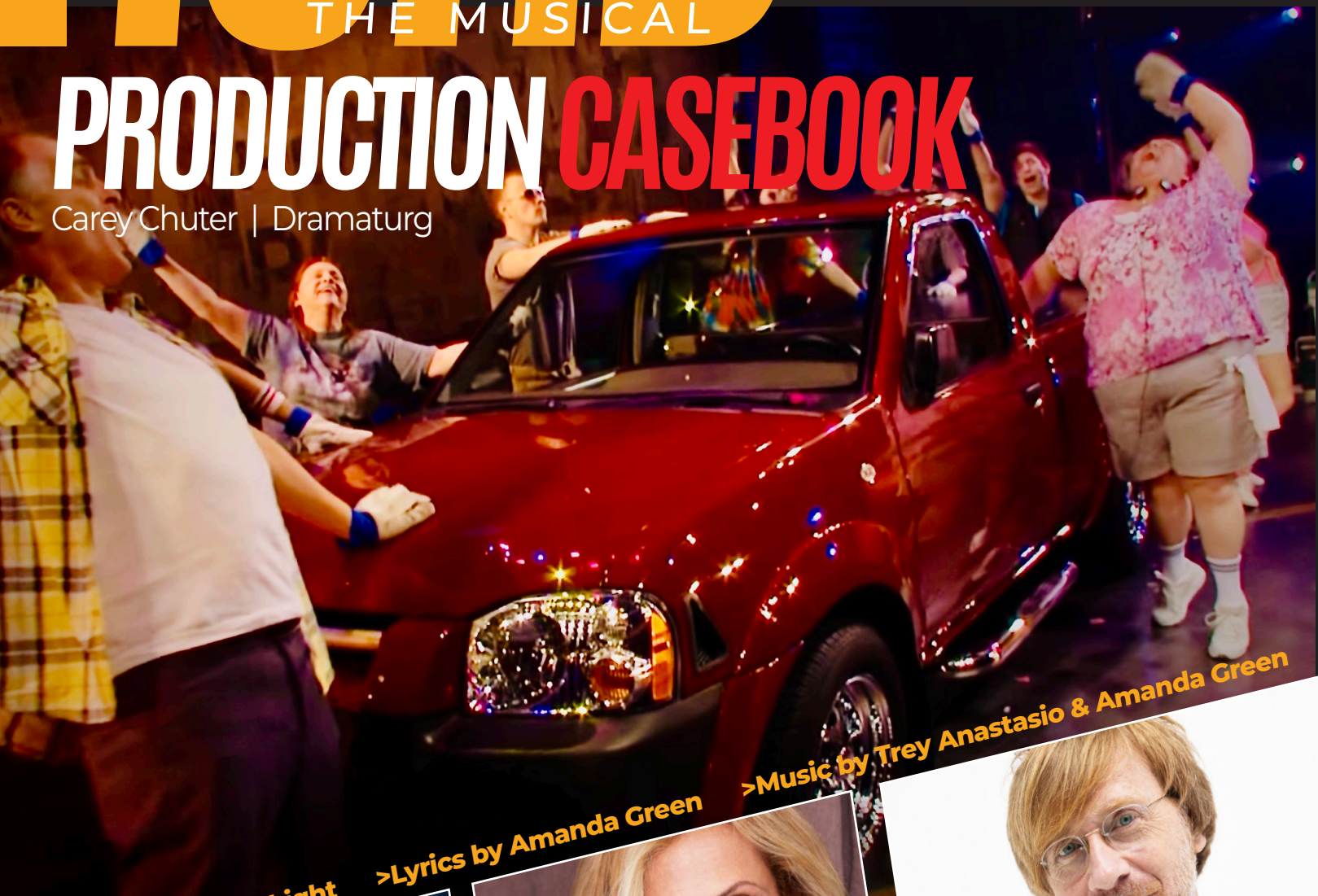
PRODUCTION CASEBOOK

Carey Chuter | Dramaturg

PATRICK PEARSON
Director

DR. LAURA AVERY
Music Director

KYLE CRAIG-BOGARD
Choreography



>Book by Doug Wright

>Lyrics by Amanda Green

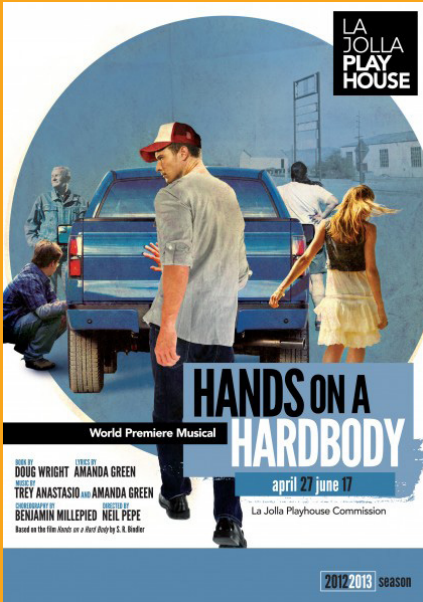
>Music by Trey Anastasio & Amanda Green



Broadway Premiere | Brooks Atkinson Theatre 2013

◀Talking DRAMATURGY

HANDS ON A HARDBODY THE MUSICAL



La Jolla Playhouse premiere poster

A Message!

Converge - to come together and unite in a common interest or focus.

“While most of us regard a fork in the road as an either/or proposition – left or right? – Trey Anastasio instead sees a convergence of opportunities” (Concord Theatricals).

Convergence. There may not be a better word for describing the coming together of the creative team of Hands on a Hardbody - a rock star, a prize-winning dramatist, and a spitfire Broadway lyricist. The team-up is peculiar and unexpected. The same is true for the down-on-their-luck characters that assemble for the opportunity to win a Nissan Hardbody truck in Longview, Texas.

Discover more about this unconventional artistic team and the characters fighting for the American Dream as they all converge in one creative moment to bring us Hands On a Hardbody the Musical.

Carey Chuter, Dramaturg



1997 Nissan Hardbody print ad photo

PowerTEAM

ABOUT THE CREATIVES



Photo by John Keon

Doug Wright/Book >Other Works

- War Paint | Goodman Theatre, Chicago, IL | 2016
- Hands on a Hardbody | La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA | 2012
- Creditors | La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA | 2009
- The Little Mermaid | Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver, CO | 2007
- Grey Gardens | Playwrights Horizons, NY | 2006
- I Am My Own Wife | Playwrights Horizons, NY | 2003
- Quills | Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Washington, D.C. | 1995



Photo by John Carucci

>Career and Achievements

- Quills earned the 1995 Kesselring Prize for Best New American Play from the National Arts Club and a 1996 Village Voice Obie Award for Outstanding Achievement in Playwriting for Wright.
- In 2000 Wright wrote the screenplay for Quills, which would star actor Geoffrey Rush.
- Wright's one-person play, I Am My Own Wife, transferred to Broadway, winning the Tony Award for Best Play and Pulitzer Prize for Drama.
- Wright wrote the book for Grey Gardens in 2006, a musical based on the Maysles brothers' 1975 documentary film about Edith Ewing Bouvier Beale ("Big Edie") and her daughter Edith Bouvier Beale ("Little Edie"), Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis's aunt and cousin.
- Wright adapted the Disney film The Little Mermaid for the Broadway musical, which opened in 2007.
- In 2009, the La Jolla Playhouse commissioned Wright to adapt and direct Creditors by August Strindberg.
- In another La Jolla Playhouse commission, Wright wrote the book for the musical Hands on a Hardbody, culminating in a short run on Broadway in March and April 2013 after premiering at the La Jolla Playhouse in 2012.
- Wright has worked on four television pilots for producer Norman Lear and teleplays for Hallmark Entertainment and HBO.
- Wright's credits in the film industry include screenplays for production companies such as Fine Line Features, Fox Searchlight, and DreamWorks SKG.
- Doug Wright is a member of the Dramatists Guild and serves on the New York Theatre Workshop board.



Photo by David Granberry



Photo by Tess Mayer

Amanda Green/Lyrics & Music >Other Works

- Kiss Me, Kate | Studio 54, NYC | 2019
- On the Twentieth Century | American Airlines Theatre, NYC | 2015
- Hands on a Hardbody | La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA | 2012
- Bring It On The Musical | Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA | 2011
- High Fidelity | Colonial Theatre, Boston, MASS | 2006

>Career and Achievements

- In 2013, Green received the Frederic Loewe Award from the Dramatists Guild for Hands On A Hardbody (lyricist; co-composer).
- Green premiered two new musicals on Broadway in the 2012-2013 season: Hands on a Hardbody and Bring It On (co-lyricist).
- For Hands On A Hardbody, Green received nominations for a Tony Award, two Drama Desk Awards (music & lyrics), and an Outer Critics Circle Award.
- Green received a nomination for a Drama Desk Award in the same year for her lyrics for Bring It On, co-written with Lin Manuel Miranda.
- Green served as lyricist for the musical High Fidelity.
- Arthur Laurents asked Green to write additional lyrics for the regional revival of Hallelujah Baby, original lyricists Betty Comden and Adolph Green (Amanda Green's father).
- Green co-starred and served as lyricist in For The Love Of Tiffany: A Wifetime Original Musical (NY Fringe Festival).
- Green is an award-winning performer (2 MAC Awards, BISTRO Award) who performs her work in concerts everywhere from Carnegie Hall to Birdland to The Bluebird Café in Nashville.
- She has acted in musicals on Broadway and regionally, including originating "Gary Coleman" in Avenue Q at The O'Neill Center.
- Green frequently performs in arena concerts around the country with PHISH and the Trey Anastasio Band.
- Green is a recipient of The Jonathan Larson Award and The Songwriter's Hall of Fame Abe Olman Award.

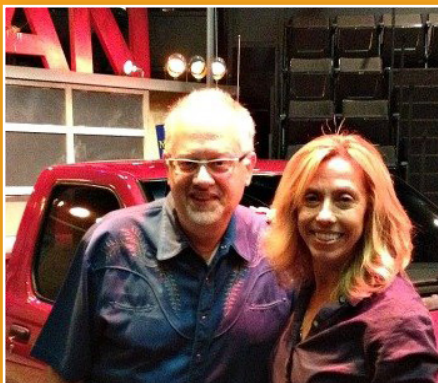


Photo by Jerome Weeks



Photo by Dave Gordon

◀PowerTEAM

ABOUT THE CREATIVES



Photo by Chad Batka

Trey Anastasio/Music >Other Works

- Fare Thee Well (The Grateful Dead) | Santa Clara, CA & Chicago, IL | Jun 2015 - Jul 2015
- Hands on a Hardbody | La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, CA | 2012• Vermont Youth Orchestra with Trey Anastasio & Ernie Stires | Carnegie Hall | Sep 2004
- Oysterhead | Alt-Funk Fusion | 2001
- Trey Anastasio Band | Lead guitarist, vocalist | 1998
- Surrender to the Air | Free Jazz ensemble | 1996
- Phish | Founding member, lead guitarist, vocalist | 1983

>Career and Achievements

- For over three decades, composer/guitarist/vocalist Anastasio has forged a multi-faceted career, winning acclaim in rock, classical and theatrical genres.
- In 2017, Phish completed a residency at Madison Square Garden in New York – an unprecedented 13-night run known as The Baker's Dozen.
- Anastasio has received Grammy nominations for recordings with Phish and his solo work.
- Famous musical collaborations include artists Dave Matthews, Herbie Hancock, Carlos Santana, Toots and the Maytals, B.B. King and The Roots, and the trio Oysterhead – with Les Claypool (Primus) and Stewart Copeland (The Police).
- Anastasio received a Tony nomination for Best Original Score in 2013 for Hands on a Hardbody.
- In 2015, Anastasio joined the surviving members of the Grateful Dead (filling the shoes of Jerry Garcia) for five stadium shows celebrating the band's 50th anniversary and serving as their farewell.
- Anastasio's Carnegie Hall performance with the New York Philharmonic was hailed as a rare classical-rock hybrid pleasing partisans from both genres.
- In 2014, Anastasio produced a new composition for guitar and orchestra, called Petrichor, culminating in an orchestral tour that ended with a performance at the famous Hollywood Bowl.
- In 2019, Between Me and My Mind, a film documenting Anastasio's creative process debuted to critical acclaim at the Tribeca Film Festival.



Photo by Aidan Schultz-Meyer



Photo by Mark Kennedy

Hardbody PRODUCTIONS

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE | LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA



Photos by Kevin Berne

Mandell Weiss Theatre

World Premiere

May 12 - June 17, 2012

Directed by Neil Pepe

Musical Staging by Benjamin Millepied

[Read original media announcement.](#)

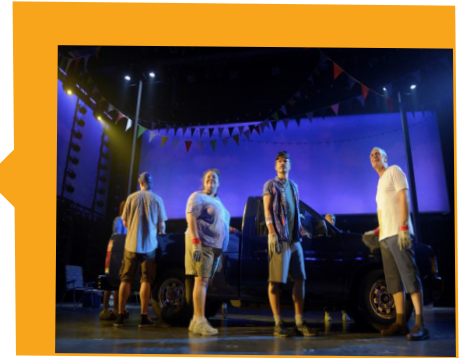
[Watch Promotional Video](#)

“WE
WROTE
MUSIC
AND
SONGS
THAT
WERE
TRUE
TO THE
CHARACTERS”
-A. G.

[Watch La Jolla Playhouse
Song Preview](#)

Featured Cast

Keith Carradine - J.D., Allison Case - Kelli,
Hunter Foster - Benny, Jay Armstrong Johnson - Greg,
David Larsen - Chris, Jacob Ming-Trent - Ronald,
Kathleen Elizabeth Monteleone - Heather,
Jon Ruá - Jesús, Keala Settle - Norma,
Dale Soules - Janis, Mary Gordon Murray - Virginia,
Jim Newman - Mike, Connie Ray - Cindy,
Scott Wakefield - Frank,
William Youmans - Don/Dr. Stokes



Symbolism and Struggle

“Its characters are drawn with insight, sympathy and a refreshing lack of condescension, despite the plentiful use of colorful local idioms. Their pasts, trials and fervent ambitions are illuminated through an appealing score pungent with blues-rock authenticity.”

- Charles Isherwood

[Read the full review here.](#)

Musical Needs Darker Colors

“I want to believe that this unlikely collaborative trio can tap into the universal themes that the musical currently skirts, and tweak their material in such a way that it effects our heart, mind and spirit.”

- Tony Frankel

[Read full review here.](#)



◀ **Hardbody**PRODUCTIONS

2013 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Photos by Chad Batka



WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?

Keith Carradine talks about the show, its characters and what they're all standing for.

[Watch video](#)



THE DRIVING FORCE

Director Neil Pepe and choreographer Sergio Trujillo talk about their shared vision for Hands on a Hardbody.

[Watch video](#)



WHAT IS A HARDBODY?

Bookwriter Doug Wright talks about trucks, Texans and the inspiration behind the musical.

[Watch video](#)



Brooks Atkinson Theatre

(February 23-April 13, 2013) The musical hit Broadway and was viewed as heartfelt, unpredictable and unpretentious. Wright's book was deemed dramatically credible with character-rich music provided by Anastasio and Green.

Unfortunately, HOHB would remain a limited run. Perhaps Marilyn Stasio (Variety) got it right when she wrote, "It's hard to picture hotel concierges, travel agents and group sales ladies pitching tourists a show about some working-class stiffs from East Texas clinging desperately to a cherry-red pickup truck in a marathon competition to win it." Though a Broadway extension proved elusive, HOHB would move on to regional success and acclaim as we will soon explore.

• Cast retained from the La Jolla premiere

• Choreographed by Sergio Trujillo (New)



Small-Town Dreams

"Broadway has been sorely in need of a new musical that touches the heart without insulting the intelligence. Now it's got one. "Hands on a Hardbody," in which 10 cash-strapped Texans take part in an endurance contest whose winner will drive home

a brand-new pickup truck, is a deeply felt, emotionally true portrait of recession-era American life." - Terry Teachout

[Read full review here.](#)



Hope Is a Thing With Tires

"Although it's far from fully loaded in a conventional sense, this scrappy, sincere new musical brings a fresh, handmade feeling to Broadway, which mostly traffics in the machine tooled. (Last year's Tony winner "Once" was a notable exception.) Burrowing into the

troubled hearts of its characters, it draws a cleareyed portrait of an America that's a far cry from the fantasyland of most commercial musicals. "Hands on a Hardbody" simply sings forth a story of endurance, hardship and the dimming American dream, which increasingly seems to hover on the distant horizon like some last-ditch motel whose neon lights are blinking out one by one." - Charles Isherwood

[Read full review here.](#)

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