

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Producer Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CORBIN BLEU AND SOARA-JOYE ROSS
JOIN CAST OF ANYTHING GOES
AT ARENA STAGE AT THE MEAD CENTER FOR AMERICAN THEATER
NOVEMBER 2 – DECEMBER 23, 2018**

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces **Corbin Bleu** (*Holiday Inn*, *The New Irving Berlin Musical*; *In the Heights*; Disney Channel's *High School Musical*) will play Billy Crocker and **Soara-Joye Ross** (*Les Misérables*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* National Tour) will play Reno Sweeney in Cole Porter's madcap seafaring musical, **Anything Goes**. Featuring some of musical theater's most memorable standards such as "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top" and the title song, *Anything Goes* is directed by **Molly Smith**, with choreography by **Parker Esse** and music direction by **Paul Sportelli**, and will run **November 2-December 23, 2018 in the Fichandler Stage**.

Corbin Bleu (*Billy Crocker*) comes from an extensive background in film, television and theatre. He is probably best known for playing Chad Danforth in Disney's Emmy Award-winning *High School Musical* franchise. Corbin was recently seen on Broadway as Ted Hanover in the Tony-nominated production of *Holiday Inn, The New Irving Berlin Musical*, winning the Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Male Dancer in a Broadway Show. Additional Broadway credits include: *Godspell* (Jesus) and *In the Heights* (Usnavi). Other stage highlights include *Hairspray* (Seaweed) and *Mamma Mia!* (Sky), both at The Hollywood Bowl. Most recently Corbin starred as Don Lockwood, the role made famous by Gene Kelly in The Muny's centennial season production of *Singin' in the Rain*. Also in 2018, Corbin was honored as Entertainer of the Year from the Tremaine National Gala honoring his work in the dance industry. His film credits include: *To Write Love on Her Arms* (starring opposite Kat Dennings), *Nurse 3-D* and *The Monkey's Paw*, to name a few. Corbin's television credits include: *Franklin & Bash*, *Blue Bloods*, *Psych*, *Castle*, *The Fosters* and *Chicago Med*. In 2013, he partnered with Karina Smirnoff on the multi-Emmy Award-winning ABC hit *Dancing with the Stars*, placing a close second. A Brooklyn native, Corbin currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Sasha.

Soara-Joye Ross (*Reno Sweeney*) After coming off the heels of John Doyle's New York revival of *Carmen Jones* as Frankie, the "Beat Out Dat Rhythm of the Drum" songstress Soara-Joye is thrilled to be making her Arena Stage debut as Reno! She was last in D.C. with the National Tour of *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* (The National Theatre). Broadway: *Les Misérables*, *Dance of the Vampires*. Off-Broadway: *Jerry Springer the Opera* (Carnegie Hall, dir. Jason Moore), *Dessa Rose* (Lincoln Center), *Tin Pan Alley Rag* (Roundabout Theatre Co.), *Single Black Female* (Playwrights Horizons & The Duke, dir. Colman Domingo), *The First Noel* (The Apollo, dir. Steven Broadnax), *Disenchanted* (Westside), *Cross That River* (Outstanding Individual Performance NYMF Award). Film: *Garden State*. TV: *Crashing* (HBO). Soara-Joye also has a solo show entitled *This Is My Life, Gotta Fly!* Training: The American Musical and Dramatic Academy. Performances dedicated in loving memory of her mom, Rita. www.Soara-Joye.com

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Page 2— Early casting announced for *Anything Goes*

Additional casting will be announced at a later date.

Creative team bios can be accessed by visiting <https://www.arenastage.org/tickets/season-landing/anything-goes/>.

Anything Goes

Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter

**Original Book by P.G. Wodehouse and Guy Bolton
and Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse**

New Book by Timothy Crouse and John Weidman

Directed by Molly Smith

Choreographed by Parker Esse

Music Direction by Paul Sportelli

In the Fichandler Stage / November 2 – December 23, 2018

The S.S. American has set sail from NY to London. Aboard, the lovelorn Billy has stowed away on a mission to stop the marriage of his mystery muse, heiress Hope Harcourt, to the millionaire Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Now, it is up to Billy, with the help of showgirls, sailors and public enemy #13, to find, woo and win back his true love. Unlikely alliances arise as mischief and mayhem ensue in this madcap musical by beloved composer and Tony Award winner Cole Porter. It's the perfect night out at the theater — contagiously fun and pure “musical comedy joy!” (*New York Times*)

Tickets for *Anything Goes* are \$40-105, subject to change and based on availability, plus applicable fees. **Tickets may be purchased online at arenastage.org by phone at 202-488-3300 or at the Sales Office at 1101 Sixth St., SW, D.C.**

***Anything Goes* is generously sponsored by George and Duffy Ftikas and Margot Kelly. Choreography is sponsored by Virginia McGehee Friend.**

For complete 2018/19 Season details, visit: arenastage.org/tickets/season-landing/.

***Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater*, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Producer Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays and impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000. arenastage.org**

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