



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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***'You've Got a Friend' - Beautiful: The Carole King Musical Takes the Stage at Near West Theatre***

***Experience the Timeless Music of Carole King in the heart of Gordon Square Arts District***

CLEVELAND – February 28, 2025 – Near West Theatre proudly presents “Beautiful: The Carole King Musical,” a heartfelt journey through the life and music of one of the most influential singer-songwriters of all time. Running three weekends from March 28 through April 13, 2025, this inspiring production brings King’s legendary catalog to life, celebrating her enduring impact on music and storytelling. Performances will take place at Near West Theatre’s ADA-compliant venue, located at 6702 Detroit Avenue in the heart of the Gordon Square Arts District. Tickets are \$20, with additional Pay What You Choose options available. Visit [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org) or call the Box Office at 216-961-6391, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Directed by Near West Theatre’s Artistic Director, Trinidad Snider, *Beautiful* boasts a stellar femme creative team, including Choreography by Cassandra Miller and Music Direction by Rachel Woods. The production team also features Lighting Design by Jesse Uguccini, Scenic Design by Laura Carlson, and Costume Design by Vanessa Cook. The talented cast includes (in alphabetical order): Molly Andrews-Hinders, Bethany Beckham, Paris Bunch, Kyla Burks, Sara Chapman, Tara Clinton, Elisa Gauntner, Donnell James, Connor Karboski, Robert Kowalewski, Grant Guyton, Marissa Lahr, Carole Leiblinger-Hedderson, Shannon McPeek, Maria Matthews, Emily Morgan, Kathryn O’Sullivan, Zach Palumbo, Phil Pantalone, Mark Pack, Dennis Runkle, Simeon Schmitt, Erin Sheplavy, David Turner, Catie Votaw, Sydney Noelle Warren, Ronald Watkins, Anthony Williams, Kellen Williams.

“This cast and creative team is so special and talented! Something I love about Near West Theatre – and is true for the cast of *Beautiful* – is the layers of connection between all participants,” shares Molly Andrews-Hinders, who plays music legend Carole King. “There are so many circles of connection that span across decades. One example - The first show I was ever in was *Children of Eden* (1999) at NWT

when I was 11. Trinidad was starring in that production and now, all these years later, she is directing me in this piece.”

Andrews-Hinders, who write the music for *Velveteen, A New Musical* which premiered at Playhouse Square in October 2024, shares, “Like Carole, I’ve long identified as a songwriter first and foremost. I love the writing process – seeing how I can make room for a new song to emerge, piecing it together, and hearing it brought to life with the talent and energy of other artists. There is such magic in that process.”

“*Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*” tells the inspiring true story of Carole King’s remarkable rise to fame, from her early days as a teenage songwriter to her emergence as one of the most successful solo acts in music history. Featuring beloved hits like “*You’ve Got a Friend*,” “*(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman*,” and “*I Feel the Earth Move*,” this Tony and Grammy Award-winning musical invites audiences to experience the life and music of an icon.

“There’s a lot of music in the show, not only from King and Gerry Goffin, but also another songwriting team, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil,” says Music Director, Rachel Woods. “I love that the show features the evolution of King’s style while inviting audiences to connect with her story through her music”

“I’m inspired by her songwriting style, particularly on the *Tapestry* album. It’s also inspiring to think that she was doing all of this work while also raising her children,” Woods continues. “She had to have been really driven to get her music out into the world. I have two children at home, and sitting down to practice or write music can really only happen when they’re asleep.”

Near West’s production will feature Sound Design Sound by James Romeo with Technical Direction by Perren Hedderson. Sound Tech by Joshua Caraballo and Assistant Technical Direction will be offered by Emily Hehnen. Near West’s Production Manager is Michael Stein. “*Beautiful*” will be Stage Managed by Julie Billinghurst, with Assistant Stage Management offered by Kenedy Brooks.

For additional information including box office information, please visit [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org). The theatre was constructed as part of the Gordon Square Arts District capital campaign and features climate-control and is fully accessible by wheelchair. *Little Shop of Horrors* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

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### ***About Near West Theatre***

Near West Theatre builds loving relationships and engages diverse people in strengthening their sense of identity, passion, and purpose, individually and in community, through accessible, affordable, and transformational theatre arts experiences. Since 1978, Near West Theatre has been shaping, changing, and saving the lives of children, teens, and adults. The community theater hosts a variety of free community events and free after-school programs to underline its commitment to accessibility for all

people. The organization serves people of all ages, but a focus on youth goes back to its founding and continues to this day. [www.nearwesttheatre.org](http://www.nearwesttheatre.org). @nearwesttheatre. NWT is grateful to receive financial support from the Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. For more information, visit [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org) or follow the theatre on Facebook ([facebook.com/nearwesttheatre](https://facebook.com/nearwesttheatre)) and Instagram (@nearwesttheatre).

## **[TOMBSTONE INFO]**

### **“Beautiful: The Carole King Musical”**

*“Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall, all you have to do is call...”*

*Spring Mainstage Production*

*Runtime: 2 hours and 15 minutes, 15-minute intermission*

Book by  
Douglas McGrath

Words and Music by  
Gerry Goffin & Carole King Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil

Music by Arrangement with  
Sony Music Publishing

Orchestrations, Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements  
Steve Sidwell

Additional Music Arrangements by  
Jason Howland

BEAUTIFUL is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com).

### Performance Dates

Fri. March 28 - 7:30 PM

Sat. March 29 - 7:30 PM

Fri. April 4 - 7:30 PM

Sat. April 5 - 7:30 PM

Sun. April 6 - 2:00 PM

Fri. April 11 - 7:30 PM

Sat. April 12 - 7:30 PM

Sun. April 13 - 2:00 PM

Suggested Performance Listing

**Near West Theatre**, 6702 Detroit Ave., Cleveland's Gordon Square Arts District. Box Office: 216-961-6391 or [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org). "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" runs **March 28, 19 & April 4, 5, 11, & 12 at 7:30 p.m.; April 6 & 13 at 2:00 p.m.** General Admission: Tickets \$20 with Pay What You Choose options available. BEAUTIFUL is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com).