

JOURNEY TO BUENOS AIRES:

EVITA

WILL TRANSPORT YOU!

There is no denying the fact that *Evita* is one of the most exquisitely tuneful musicals ever. With music by the legendary Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by the award-winning Tim Rice, this biographical musical of the life of Eva Perón illuminates this most beloved, if controversial, figure in Argentina's political history. And beloved she was: the show's title is a nod to the peoples' affection as the Spanish term of endearment, meaning "little Eva."

The Arts Center's spring production, *Evita* runs from May 2 – 27, and was our audience's number one selection for a musical in the 2017-18 season survey. *Evita* became the first British musical to receive the Tony for Best Musical plus six more, while garnering six Drama Desk awards, and the Outer Critics Circle award. The accolades kept rolling in, as the 2012 Broadway revival earned three Tony Award nominations including Best Musical Revival as well as five Drama Desk awards.

For those who don't know the story, Eva Duarte was born into a poor family in Argentina. Her father abandoned Eva and her mother at an early age. Eva pursued a singing career at age 15 and found some success once she moved to Buenos Aires. It was there that she met Juan Perón. The two married and began the dual political careers that would lead to Perón's presidency and Eva's transformation into

"Evita," a near saint-like figure in the hearts of the poverty-stricken, disenfranchised Argentinian people.

Eva's story is a classic rags-to-riches tale in which scandal and corruption mingled with a life of charity and an extreme public persona. Loved by the masses and despised by the Oligarchs, she remains a powerful icon of philanthropy, fashion, and ambition for both her home country and the world.

At the helm of *Evita* is Gail Luna of New York City, most recently having set designed *Dial M for Murder* and *Mamma Mia!* at the Arts Center. He expressed his enthusiasm for this ambitious musical, saying, "*Evita* is a story rich in history, and the music soars while we tell this tale of intrigue, mystery and greed. Eva was a stunning woman who led a country, but beneath that beautiful facade was someone full of complexities. It's a story you'll never forget, and a breathtaking score that will stay with you long after the curtain falls."

Tickets go on sale March 15!
Preview performances May 2-3 are \$48 for adults and \$35 for children 5-15; regular performances, May 4-27, are \$58 for adults and \$45 for children. Call the box office at (843) 842-ARTS (2787) or visit www.artshhi.com.

