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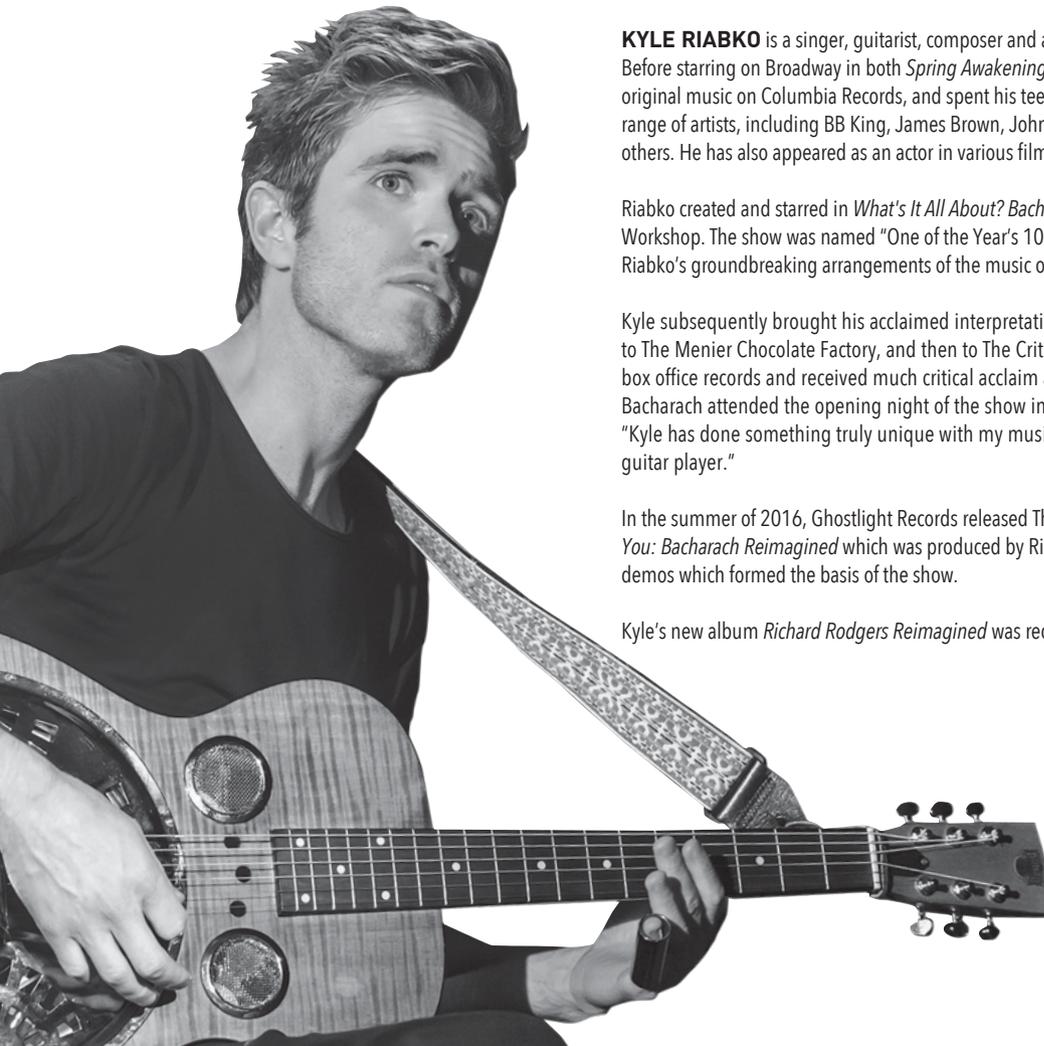
KYLE RIABKO:

RICHARD RODGERS REIMAGINED

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2017

Bram Goldsmith Theater

Running Time: 80 minutes with no intermission



KYLE RIABKO is a singer, guitarist, composer and actor who was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Before starting on Broadway in both *Spring Awakening* and *Hair*, Kyle released a full-length album of original music on Columbia Records, and spent his teen years touring as an opening act for a wide range of artists, including BB King, James Brown, John Mayer, Keb Mo, Buddy Guy, Jason Mraz and others. He has also appeared as an actor in various film and television projects.

Riabko created and starred in *What's It All About? Bacharach Reimagined* at New York Theatre Workshop. The show was named "One of the Year's 10 Best" by *The New York Times*, and featured Riabko's groundbreaking arrangements of the music of Burt Bacharach.

Kyle subsequently brought his acclaimed interpretation of the Bacharach catalogue to London, first to The Menier Chocolate Factory, and then to The Criterion Theatre in the West End where it broke box office records and received much critical acclaim as *Close To You: Bacharach Reimagined*. Burt Bacharach attended the opening night of the show in NYC and both openings in London and said, "Kyle has done something truly unique with my music. He's a beautiful singer and one hell of a guitar player."

In the summer of 2016, Ghostlight Records released The Original London Cast Recording of *Close To You: Bacharach Reimagined* which was produced by Riabko, and also featured some of his original demos which formed the basis of the show.

Kyle's new album *Richard Rodgers Reimagined* was recently released by Ghostlight Records.

MUSICAL NOTES

The Inspiration for Richard Rodgers Reimagined



Richard Rodgers

I first became interested in the music of Richard Rodgers through another musical genius – Burt Bacharach.

For the past seven years, I've had the honor of working with Burt and his songs to create an Off Broadway and West End show called *Close To You: Bacharach Reimagined* as well as a subsequent original cast album.

It was during one of my trips to Burt's home in Los Angeles that something very unique caught my eye – a fan letter, framed and hanging right outside the music room, addressed "Dear Burt" and signed "Yours Sincerely, Richard Rodgers." Between this greeting and signature are colorful expressions of the "enormous admiration" that Rodgers had for Bacharach's work.

I later learned that Rodgers wrote this letter in response to a *New York Times* piece in which Burt had expressed his admiration for Rodgers' body of work. This discovery led me to interpret the timeless songs that Rodgers wrote with both Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II, through my own musical lens, as I had earlier with the Bacharach catalogue.

The end result of this musical journey is *Richard Rodgers Reimagined* – a concert (and accompanying album) that I'm very excited to be bringing to The Wallis. I hope you enjoy listening to the music as much as I do playing it!

-Kyle