

PRESS CONTACT:

Laura Stegman
Press@TheWallis.org, LauraStegmanPR@gmail.com
and
Libby Huebner, nyjazz@aol.com

Edward Allen
Edward@HQCollective.com

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**Aaron Lazar, Brian McKnight Jr., Anthony Fedorov, Michael
Thomas Grant, Nina Nelson, and Cheyenne Wells
Lead All-Star Cast of *LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE* ,
the Record-Breaking, First-Of-Its-Kind,
Theatrical Cinematic Experience**

*Running this Holiday Season through December 31, 2021
at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts*

(Beverly Hills, CA, December 1, 2021) –For The Record and The Wallis’ production of **LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE**, the multimedia concert celebration of the beloved holiday film from Universal Pictures/Working Title, opened Wednesday, December 1 and runs through Friday, December 31, 2021, at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Broadway and television star Aaron Lazar (Fox’s *Filthy Rich*, Broadway’s *The Last Ship*, *A Little Night Music*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Light in the Piazza*) joins the exciting lineup of talented performers alongside singer/songwriter, musician, producer and engineer, Brian McKnight Jr., who comes from a legendary musically gifted family including famed father Brian McKnight. *American Idol* 4th place finalist on season 4, Anthony Fedorov, *Zoey’s Extraordinary Playlist* actor Michael Thomas Grant, and RCA recording artist Nina Nelson, member of girl group [Citizen Queen](#) (with over 30 million music video views), also join the cast for the first time. Rounding out the group of newcomers is Cheyenne Wells who starred in the recent production of *Little Shop of Horrors* at Pasadena Playhouse with MJ Rodriguez.

Returning to **LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE**, stars include RIAA Gold® recording artist Rex Smith, Broadway star Doug Kreeger (*Les Misérables*); recording artist James Byous (Netflix’ Original Series *Westside*); singer/songwriter Gabriela Carrillo; recording artist/performer Tomasina Abate; and multi-dimensional artist Emily Lopez. Ensemble members include Sha’Leah Nikole Stubblefield, Darrell Morris Jr., Parissa Koo, and Ian Ward. Playing adolescents “Joanna” and

“Sam” respectively are Zola Odessa and Conor Jack Kowalski. Their understudies are Sofie Michelle Poliakoff and JJ Bartlett.

Love Actually Live, the biggest hit in The Wallis’ history, is back by popular demand as a not-to-be-missed Los Angeles tradition. During its previous record-breaking runs in 2018 and 2019, nearly 30,000 people flocked to the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts’ Bram Goldsmith Theater to experience this exceptional staging, state-of-the-art video design, and award-winning production.

LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE brings together friends and family alike to enjoy the unforgettable holiday classic in a three-dimensional world in which film and live action seamlessly intertwine throughout the London setting. Iconic scenes displayed on screens that travel throughout the set share the stage with an all-star cast of singers and live orchestra as they reimagine the film’s hit soundtrack including, “Christmas is All Around,” “Trouble with Love,” and Joni Mitchell’s “Both Sides Now.”

“The superbly mounted musical,” said the *Los Angeles Times*, is a co-production from the team behind Los Angeles’ award-winning For The Record series and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Inspired by the 2003 classic holiday film written and directed by Richard Curtis, *LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE*, presented by special arrangement with Universal Theatrical Group, will once again transform the Wallis’ Bram Goldsmith Theater into a giant, immersive cinema for the modern day. *Entertainment Weekly* called the end result, “Pitch perfect! Such a celebration of love, the holidays, and the movie itself that it’s hard to not fall in love, actually.”

“In returning once again to our Bram Goldsmith stage, *LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE* provides the opportunity to celebrate together, in person, with the people we love in a year when it’s needed the most,” said The Wallis’ Artistic Director Paul Crewes. “It is always a pleasure to collaborate with our For The Record family, and I’m grateful for the possibility to be sharing this very unique experience with Los Angeles audiences once again.”

“During the past holiday season, we all adapted and watched artists perform live concerts online, participated in network television sing-a-longs, and some even went to drive-in movie theaters in an effort to feel surrounded by the festive spirit,” said For The Record executive producer Shane Scheel. “As we move forward each day to a world on the mend, I am thrilled to once again plan to bring together our incredibly talented artists and deliver an evening to audiences each night in-person that is sure to strengthen connections, make merry and celebrate love.”

LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE is adapted and directed by Anderson Davis, with musical supervision and arrangements by Jesse Vargas, vocal design by Tony Award nominee AnnMarie Milazzo, choreography by Sumie Maeda, scenic design by Emmy Award winner Matthew Steinbrenner, lighting design by Michael Berger, sound design by Ben Soldate, costume design by Steve Mazurek, video design by Aaron Rhyne, casting by Stewart/Whitley and co-produced by Shane Scheel/For the Record and the Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts.

The Wallis is closely monitoring the ever-changing local health and safety environment carefully and addressing known health factors at the moment. Should plans change and any performance be required to be postponed or cancelled or if venue capacity limitations are instituted, ticket

holders will be notified immediately with options for their purchased tickets per The Wallis' ticketing policies.

The health and safety of patrons, our staff and artists inside and outside our venue are a top priority for The Wallis. All audience members attending indoor performances will be required to show proof of full vaccination upon entry at The Wallis, or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of the attending their performance date. Further details, including methods of vaccination confirmation and COVID testing will be announced soon. In addition, all patrons regardless of vaccination status will be required to properly wear a face mask over both the nose and mouth upon entering The Wallis' indoor spaces and for the duration of their visit. The Wallis' health and safety protocols are also subject to change at the venue's sole discretion or in accordance with LA County and City of Beverly Hills regulations. For The Wallis' most current health and safety protocols, visit TheWallis.org/SafetyIndoors.

Ticket prices for previews (November 27, 28, 30) are \$35-105; ticket prices for December 1-31 are \$39-\$125 (subject to change). The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. To purchase tickets and for more information, please call 310-746-4000 (Monday – Friday, 10 am to 6 pm) or visit TheWallis.org/Love.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 300 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (*LaLa Magazine*), The Wallis was lauded by *Culture Vulture*, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine and Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

About FOR THE RECORD:

Created by Shane Scheel and Anderson Davis, For The Record is an unconventional theatrical series that brings the soul of treasured directors' films front and center: the soundtrack. Staged in a variety of venues that immerse the audience in the excitement, carefully selected songs from movie soundtracks are brought to life. Part rock-concert and part musical theater, For The Record unites characters across a film directors' cannon into one world. In 2010, the new generation cabaret experience began in a 60-seat bar in Hollywood and has featured the works of acclaimed directors Quentin Tarantino, John Hughes, Baz Luhrmann, The Coen Brothers, Paul Thomas Anderson, Martin Scorsese, Robert Zemeckis, and Garry and Penny Marshall. For The Record has performed around the country with shows in Los Angeles, Las Vegas

(a three-year run with Cirque du Soleil and The Venetian), New York, Chicago, Indianapolis, The Ace Hotel in Palm Springs, SXSW in Austin, TX, The Montreal International Jazz Festival and Norwegian Cruise Line's mega-ship, The Escape. For The Record is carving a new place in the market that transcends jukebox musicals and creates a transportive experience making the audience feel like they are twisting in Jack Rabbit Slims, in detention at Shermer High School, or toasting in Gatsby's Mansion. www.fortherecordlive.com @FTRLIVE #ForTheRecordLive

About Love Actually

Written and directed by Academy Award® nominee Richard Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Notting Hill*), *Love Actually* is the unforgettable holiday classic from Universal Pictures/Working Title that has had audiences laughing, crying and hugging since it first premiered in the U.S. in 2003. Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, Laura Linney, Keira Knightley, Emma Thompson, Martin Freeman, Andrew Lincoln and Bill Nighy lead an illustrious all-star cast that charm and delight in this heartwarming romantic comedy about eight couples whose lives intersect shortly before the holidays. The film's hilariously unpredictable plot examines how love inspires experiences that are alternately exciting, unexpected and unequalled. Since its debut 18 years ago, *Love Actually* has become a new holiday classic, and according to *Entertainment Weekly*, "one of the great Christmas movies" of all time.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

For downloadable photos, please visit: TheWallis.org/Press.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts and For The Record's Production of

LOVE ACTUALLY LIVE

Inspired by the Universal Pictures/Working Title motion picture written by Richard Curtis

Presented by special arrangement with Universal Theatrical Group

Adapted By/Director Anderson Davis

WHEN:

Saturday, November 27 – Friday, December 31, 2021

RUN TIME:

Approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission.

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE:

Due to current health and safety variables, the engagement or select performances are subject to change, postponement or cancellation.